

First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Minutes of Governing Board Meeting

Wednesday Apr. 10, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

In Attendance: Rev. Dr. Kevin Downer, Ginny Moylan (Moderator), Charles Bottieri, Suzanne Cimochowski, Carl Davis, Jennifer Duggan, Bruce Staehle, Laura Boies (as clerk)

Welcome and Opening Devotion

- Moderator, Ginny Moylan, opened the meeting at 7:05 pm.
- Rev. Kevin started the devotional prayer with a moment of silence for the sudden passing of our First Selectman, Jay Swan.

Updates and Briefs

- **Consent Items:**
 - MOTION: to accept the Consent Items (Minutes, Admin. & Ministry, Facilities and Treasurer's reports), Ginny M, 2nd Rev. Kevin. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Financial Team:** (Suzanne)
 - The team decided to go forward with a \$6,000 Angel Fund request for the steeple windows. There is \$3,000 already in the Angel Fund but it is not earmarked for any specific item.
 - The Italian Dinner income was above budget expectations.
- **Property Maintenance Team:** Charles just received a proposal from EarthLight Solar and Energy Solutions for updating with energy efficient equipment.
 - After a quick review of the proposal, the GB plans to do more investigation on this topic. Suzanne will ask for help with this as well as looking into Energize CT grants.

Upcoming Meetings

- Annual SNEUCC meeting in Amherst on 6/22/24.
 - Two delegates are needed to vote at the meeting. Jen D volunteered. We will seek a volunteer to be the other delegate.
- Windham Association meeting 6/4/24 @7pm via Zoom. Rev. Kevin will be the new chairperson. Carl D volunteered to attend this meeting.
- Workshop 5/8/24 @6-9pm on Let's Do Justice, Revitalizing Congregations and Developing Leaders to be held at St. Joseph's Church in Willimantic. Rev. Kevin, Bruce S, and Ginny will attend.
- Reschedule May GB meeting to 5/15/24 due to schedule conflict with the workshop on 5/8/24.

Rev. Sue Foster's Retirement

- We plan to get her a gift and have a representative from our church bring it to her last service on June 16th, or to a farewell event if there is one.

Quarterly Leadership Dinner Idea

- No agenda, just a casual get together for our church leaders.
- Simple dinner: pizza, salad, dessert.
- Send individual invitations to leaders of all the ministries, to include: Deacons, Faith In Action, Music & Worship, GB members, Bible Study, Vision & Values, Property, and Finance.

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- Scheduled for Mon. May 20 @6pm

Next Steps for Future Planning

- Create a Resource Page to help share links and information with the congregation about discerning our path forward, ie: articles, case studies, videos, etc.
 - Start a Google doc to add links to.
 - Provide a link in the Friday emails to access information.
- Plan a Vision & Values meeting with the GB
 - V&V team will join the GB at the beginning of our May 15th meeting.
- Retreat at the Lodge at Crystal Pond on June 9th
 - Led by the Vision & Values Team.
 - To include a worship service, collaborative discussions, time for contemplation.
- Post Bruce's presentation from the 2nd Hour in a PDF on our website.
- Map out different examples of the 5 possible paths, and how others have followed the different paths.

Document Retention Plan

- On hold until after the upcoming webinar presented by The Congregational Library & Archives in Boston.

Debby Kirk's Retirement from SNEUCC Ministry

- We will have a special recognition coffee hour May 5th.

Closing Prayer: Moderator Ginny M shared a passage from the book "Wild Hope" by Donna Ashworth.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31pm

Post Meeting Addendum:

From Suzanne via email:

- *The Cemetery Association currently keeps their archives in the town hall fire proof vault. Tom Chase suggested the association might be interested in storing their archives along with the church archives in a fireproof safe at the church. Possibly the association would purchase the safe and pay the church some rent to keep the documents. Suzanne recommended that Tom go forward with exploring this idea with the Cemetery Association, as this would be a good solution to our concerns about better protecting our archives.*
- *Also, Peggy and Nick Murphy have volunteered to work on the outreach request to the greater community.*