

# First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Minutes of Governing Board Meeting

Wednesday Aug. 7, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

**In Attendance:** Rev Dr. Kevin Downer, Ginny Moylan (Moderator), Charles Bottieri, Suzanne Cimoichowski, Jennifer Duggan, Laura Boies (as clerk)

## Welcome and Opening Devotion

- Moderator, Ginny Moylan, opened the meeting at 7:04 pm.
- Rev. Kevin shared a devotion from “Forty Days to a Closer Walk With God, The Practice of Centering Prayer”

## Updates and Briefs

- MOTION to approve the June meeting minutes: Suzanne, 2nd Charles. Motion passed.
- Administration & Ministry Report (Rev.Kevin):
  - See full report [2024.08.07 Ministry Update.pdf](#)
  - Rev. Kevin introduced “Our Houses Of Hope” focusing on rural and small town churches to build hope in their communities. The program provides a coach and helps congregations work deeper into the core competencies of discernment, forgiveness, community engagement, and gratitude.
  - Funded by a Lilly Grant. There is also a \$1000 stipend for each phase of the process.
    - Phase 1 is Discernment. This begins with a core group of 5 to 8 individuals taking part in five 90 minute sessions facilitated by the coach. Part of this discernment process is deciding whether or not to take part in this program. There are six steps to this including looking at history as well as current relationship to our community.
    - Phase 2, if the decision is made to continue the program, then the group would be enlarged to a maximum of 12 people to look at Core Competencies.
    - Phase 3 and 4 involve the entire congregation and explore the practices of forgiveness and gratitude. The congregation decides what this may look like.
  - This discernment process can help us determine what direction we want to go.
  - What is the goal? By deepening our experience of these Christian practices, we then become the places of hope for the greater community. Forgiveness and gratitude are key.
  - GB members should review the three videos mentioned in the Ministry Update and look at their website [OurHousesOfHope.org](#).
- Rev. Kevin will draft a communication/invitation for the congregation, separate from the weekly email.
- The GB and Vision & Values team need to look at this program and determine how they will “walk together” and mesh with this program.
- Miscellaneous
  - The process for summer services needs some better organization.
  - Upcoming trainings and workshops can be shared with Lisa for her to add to emails.
  - The Creative Worship team will participate in a group study from The Worship Design Studio called “Reboot Your Worship”.
  - Ginny and Bill volunteered to help out with the recycling bin. Also Ginny cleaned out the fridge in the servery.
- MOTION to accept the consent items: Ginny M, 2nd Jen D. Motion passed.

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### Action Items

- Financial Report (Suzanne)
  - For detailed financials see [Treasurers Report July 2024 with detail.pdf](#) and [Treasurers Report August 2024 with detail.pdf](#)
  - The Financial Team is starting to think about what challenges we will face with next year's budget.
  - Send Toby a thank you note for shredding twentynine(!) boxes of papers.
  - Sharing information for thank-you notes will be improved. A "work flow" app can be added to help with this.
- Community Kitchen
  - Jen Duggan and Kristen Kaiser have agreed to be the new site coordinators for Community Kitchen. They will additionally have a committee called the "Kitchen Cabinet" who will help out on specific tasks.
  - Jen and Kristen are meeting on Monday and will speak with Bob Kirk and Bruce Lyman.

### Next Steps for Future Planning

- Individual Summaries are done. They need to be featured on a page of our website.
  - Rev. Kevin, Jen and Ginny will meet on 8/22/24 @ 9:30am to draft what we want the page to look like.
  - Plan to announce the new web page at Homecoming.
- Prep for conversations in the fall.
  - Tentatively plan a 2nd Hour on Sept. 29th to follow up on our Crystal Pond retreat and the workshop with Carol Steinbrecher. The GB and Vision & Values team will organize the content.

### Other Concerns

- There are still openings at the BBQ booth. Rev. Kevin will send out a separate email on Wednesday next week.

**Closing Prayer:** Moderator Ginny M shared a closing prayer, "In the Leaving"

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:20pm