

First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Minutes of Governing Board Meeting

Wednesday Sept. 11, 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 7:07 pm.
- Rev. Kevin reflected on the lyrics of the song “Blessed Be Your Name” by Matt Redman, and Psalm 138.

Updates and Briefs

- Facilities - See full report for details: [2024 September - Facility Report.pdf](#)
 - The new well should be fully functional by mid-October.
 - We need to rent a port-a-potty for the Arts & Crafts Fair, Oct. 19-20. There will be no public use of bathrooms. The crafters should only use the downstairs restrooms.
 - Suzanne will share this information with Kristen.
- Ministry Update - See full report for details: [2024.09.11 Ministry Update.docx](#)
 - “Church Trac” Implementation
 - This program can accept up to ten “users”. Suzanne and Rev. Kevin are the administrators. Contact either of them if you feel you should be a user and want to get the training.
 - This program is more intuitive than Church Windows. Data is stored in the cloud. Users can access from anywhere and there is an app to use it with phones.
 - Stewardship
 - The Stewardship Team is considering moving a few names to inactive status and would like the Governing Board to review them.
 - Some names are adult children of members. It needs to be determined whether they want to be listed with their own account or moved to Friend or Inactive.
 - Rev. Kevin will send the list to GB members. Please respond to the Stewardship Team.
 - The Stewardship Campaign is launching on the 2nd Sunday in October.
 - Pledge Sunday is Nov. 3rd.
- Ginny made a MOTION to accept the Consent Items, 2nd: Jen. Motion passed.
- Financial - See Treasurer’s Report for details: [Treasurers Report September 2024.pdf](#)
 - Suzanne received new paperwork from United Church Funds which replaced the SNEUCC Investment funds.
 - The Capital Campaign kicks off Oct 1st.
 - The team (Suzanne, Rev. Kevin and Peggy Murphy) are reaching out to the broader community this year. The team is asking the Governing Board members to each suggest 4 or 5 members of the congregation who may have supportive connections in the broader community.
 - Send your recommendations to the committee and they will send out letters or make personal requests.
 - Letters should be going out Sept. 30th, so please submit names by the 23rd.

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- The Williams Fund has \$1,091 in it, and is restricted to only being used for Silver Lake scholarships. It has not been used in many years. The Financial Team recommends donating the funds to Silver Lake for their scholarship fund. Suzanne made a MOTION: to donate the Williams Fund to Silver Lake to be used for scholarships in honor of Debby Kirk. 2nd Charles. Motion passed.
 - Plan to have a representative from Silver Lake come here to accept it.
 - Rev. Kevin will speak with Debby Kirk to determine a contact person at Silver Lake.
- The Financial Team has started drafting the 2025 Budget and things don't look too bad.
- Sunday Nov. 10th service will tie together the Stewardship campaign and a celebration of Community Kitchen's new leadership as well as Bob & Bruce's history of service.
- Houses of Hope:
 - Members of the initial discernment team so far are Rev. Kevin, Jen Duggan, Ginny Moylan, Mark VanderVoort, and Susan McKechnie. There is room for up to three more members.
 - This core group will have a "getting to know you" meeting in the next two weeks. Houses of Hope will match us with a guide.
- The new portal, "Where Are We Going?"
 - Review the site and check the "Embracing the Next" folder in the GB drive.
 - GB members feel free to update, fix errors or add content.
- 2nd Hour on Sept 29th - "Where Are We Going"
 - Introduce the "Where Are We Going" portal.
 - The Vision & Values Team will discuss the four visions, based on the retreat discussions. These will be shared prior to Sept. 29th for the congregation to review.
 - Bruce will review the options for the directions we can go.
 - GB will provide coffee hour.
- Thank You Notes
 - Charles downloaded the app for the form. Until it's up and running, contact Ginny for Thank You notes.
- 2025 Bylaws - Need to plan bylaws revisions. The deacons' section of the bylaws was set up as temporary/transitional.
- Pastoral Review - was completed in July by Jen and Bruce.

Closing Prayer: Moderator Ginny M shared a closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm