

First Congregational Church of Woodstock
Minutes of Governing Board Meeting
Wednesday May 14, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

In Attendance: Reverend Kevin, Ginny M. Laura B, Bruce M and Jenn B

Welcome and Opening Devotions:

- Moderator Ginny M opened the meeting at 7:08 pm with our current ritual of lighting a candle and sharing a word or phrase that expresses where you are as you come to this meeting. Reverend Kevin reminded us to remember God's presence throughout the day.

Consent Items:

- Motion to accept the updated Minutes and other consent items: Laura, 2nd: Bruce. Motion passed.

Financial Report (Suzanne)

- Suzanne not in attendance

Other:

- Willow removal from back of church was discussed. Woodstock Cemetery Assoc. offered to remove it, but the Board determined that it serves as a natural barrier preventing natural waste from collecting in the wooded area. Ginny will discuss with Tom Chase.
 - ChurchTrac use was brought up by reverend Kevin. The 10 user limit is an artificial and arbitrary limit. We can have as many users as we want.
 - A policy for admission was discussed. Separate ministries access can be set up.
 - Reverend Kevin will draw up a consent form for access.
 - Reverend Kevin will email the various boards with instructions to register and access ChurchTrac.
 - Next Step to Houses of Hope
 - Next phase is Gratitude and Forgiveness. How do we re-engage this concept and vision in our services and daily lives? The point was made that **this should be included in every Governing Board meeting.**
 - This should be incorporated into the retreat and specifically reference Houses of Hope.
 - We would like to engage in this endeavor with other Congregations. To be continued.
 - Growth.
 - Discussion was directed toward the future. Which way do we want to go? Growing the Church Community, which would require us to reach a younger demographic, or nurture our current membership? To be

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continued

- Guest speaker will be in Windham or Storrs. The topic is “alternatives for use of buildings”. Reverend Kevin will bring further details.
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- Tabled: Discussion of whether we need security for signs. Possibly use bike locks. Charles will look into the possibility of using security cameras for general security of the church.
 - Discussed possibilities. Charles will look into some possibilities.

Delegates needed for Windham Assoc. and SNEUCC

- Ginny will be delegate for Windham
- Received no feedback for delegate SNECC - June 7th - Virtual meeting 9Am - 1PM. We can send 3. Reverend Kevin will be one. Laura offered to be present for voting. Looking for 1 additional delegate.
- Recapped May 17th SNECC conference at First Church.

Updates to Sanctuary

- Mary Lou Davis had some suggestions for updating the sanctuary.
 - Mary Lou is looking for volunteers to refresh the sanctuary. Discussed asking Sam L and Jamie H
 - Governing Board would like someone outside the board to take point on this. Discussed hosting a 2d hour after service when Mary Lou can make it. We will publish this in the weekly newsletter. This would preferably be May or June. Ginny will discuss it with Mary Lou.
 - Associated with the sanctuary project, we discussed polishing the cross during August sabbatical.
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Crystal Lake Summer Retreat Day

- Date has been decided June 8th.
 - Debby K will attend to this upon her return from her celebration of Matt's wedding.
 - Potluck dinner
 - Looking for help with dinner set up, signs and directions for attendees.
 - Ginney will connect with Deb on these issues.

Closing Prayer:

Meeting Adjourned: 8:15 pm