

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Nov 2016

Created by Peace Young, 2016 Assistant Moderator

Present Members: Council Members: Al Horn, Karen Hurst, Christian Logerstedt, Ross Runkel, Peace Young

Present Staff: Cara Rothe, Michael Ellick, Elizabeth Durant.

Present Guests: Ted Heid, Brennan Meinke, Rita Delamatre, Grant Helbley, Bruce Bishop, Belinda Moos

Not Present: Bill Sweeney, Margaret Baldwin

1) Opening Prayer

- Al read poem on gratitude as opening prayer.

2) Announcements

- 2016 Nominating Committee created 2017 Church Council slate.
- 2016 Selection Committee created 2017 Nominating committee slate.
- See Attachment 1 for names.

3) Ministers' Reports

- Michael gave brief highlights from his Minister Report.
- Elizabeth gave brief highlights from her Minister Report.
- Mass incarceration movie event, support by Elizabeth, was a success.
- Youth trips with Michael and Elizabeth have gone well.
- Events with Hector Lopez, supported by Michael, drew in about 400 people.
- Combination of First Christian Church and First Congregational Church for Youth teaching/building teacher may not take place in the way that was originally planned. Elizabeth and Michael have a plan B on Youth Teacher.

4) Visioning

- Michael, Elizabeth, Brennan, Grant, and Rita would like the church to be a part of the Church as a Sanctuary Movement. This would make the church a Sanctuary to immigrants who are being reviewed for legal status. (See attachment)
- Brennan and Grant introduced the movement, the movement specifics, and ideas of education for the congregation. Both asked for thoughts, feedback, questions and concerns from council members on the project.
- Recently churches in the Portland area taking up the Sanctuary request.
- Education for being a Sanctuary church is needed for the congregation before any official sanctuary designation is made at First Congregational Church.
- Energy and urgency of being a Sanctuary Church is needed now more than ever given the immigration stance that has been coming out of President elect, Donald Trump.
- First Congregational may not be called to take a family into physical dwelling at the church even when given a Sanctuary designation.

- Ideas on how to roll out project to the congregation: (a) educating the congregation first, (b) bringing in lawyers and special case individuals to speak to the church, (c) reviewing forms for designation.
- Council affirmed the plans for the team working on this, to educate the congregation on the topic and to continue working on the project.

5) Set Annual Meeting:

- Al made a motion to set the 2017 Annual Meeting on Dec 11, 2016 at 11:45am. Karen seconded.
- *Motion approved.*

6) Treasurer's Report and Approval 2017 Budget

- Questions asked by Ross and Karen on the budget.
- Request made to change item on Significant Changes Impacting the 2017 Budget document sheet (see attachment). Request by Ross to remove "MACG \$1,500" from sheet.
- Conversation with congregation on direct deposit taking place this coming Sunday, Nov 27th.
- Questions raised on the \$174K estimate for Pledging line number in the 2017 budget.
- Some present individuals wanted to change the Pledge estimate line number for 2017 to \$165K.
- Some present individuals wanted to increase General Gifts and Pledges estimate line number for 2017 slightly.
- Some present individuals wanted to keep the Pledge estimate line number for 2017 at \$174K.
- Ross made a motion to reduce 2017 budget pledges to \$170,000. Add line to 9000 series to transfer \$4,000 for the Youth Teacher. Peace seconded. Vote: All Council Members voted Yes.
- *Motion approved.*

7) Core Ministry Policies

- Reviewed Core Ministry Policies document to determine if policies will be approved or not approved.
- Questions posed by Ross: Do all one person groups/teams in the church like the Name Tag team fall under the Core Ministry Team? Do they get all the provisions as the other Core Ministry Teams?
- Core Ministry Facilitators policy helps to shape when new teams are made. Policy gives more direct guidelines to Core Ministry Facilitators.
- Bruce brought up the fact that Eve's Circle and First Men didn't seem to fit under a Core Ministry team.
- Idea is to eventually have any team in the church be supported by a Facilitator if the group determines that it needs some support.
- Given that there were a lot of questions about one person teams, the Policy Development Group (Karen, Al, Margaret and Peace) will be coming together to see how to better bridge existing teams into the wording of the Core Ministry Policies document.
- Council decided to table the approval of the Core Ministry Policies document.

- Some questions presented about the policies: Should Council need to approve all over budget expenses? Should this policy simply refer to our policy for budget monitoring. These questions are in relation to section IV.D of Core Ministry Policies.
- No approval of the policies at this time.

8) Church Archives Donation

- If Oregon Historical Society (OHS) loses its funding, items in the archive will be returned back to the church.
- OHS is going to look into making special connections that will allow any PSU student access to First Congregational Archives for free.
- Peace went to visit each archive donation location, OHS and Portland State University. She liked OHS better because it housed more space to display archival material and there is a staffed digitizer position at OHS.
- Motion: Karen made a motion to move FCC UCC archives to the Oregon Historical Society. Christian seconded.
- *Motion approved.*

9) Church Portico Sleepers

- Bruce raised the concern of the homeless population staying in the church portico at night.
- Michael spoke about working with Building Manager, Steve Eggers, and Cara to allow the individuals to sleep in the Portico at night and ask that they leave in the morning of the next day.
- New process is to let the homeless stay in the Portico from 10pm (or after last event of the night) to 9am the next day (7 Days a Week). The portico will be cleaned and hosed from 9am-10am.
- Steve would like to have garbage cans out at 9am to invite the sleepers to clean up with him and the custodial staff.
- Michael, Steve and Cara will be keeping abreast of the sleepers staying in the Portico to help make things run smoothly.
- It seems like it would be a good idea to make an announcement to the Congregation about the sleepers.
- Al mentioned that depending on how this new process is working, the topic may come back to Council for more review.

ATTACHMENT 1: CHURCH COUNCIL 2017 AND SELECTION COMMITTEE 2017

Church Council 2017

The 2016 Nominating Committee [Julie Young, Jim McPartland, Leslie Sepetoski, Scott Sorensen-Jolink, Frank Baldwin, and Anne Sullivan] has prepared the following slate of nominees for the 2017 Church Council, to be affirmed by the congregation:

Moderator:	Peace Young
Assistant Moderator:	Frank Baldwin
Past Moderator:	Al Horn
Secretary/Treasurer:	Belinda Moos
Member-at-Large, 1 yr. term	Karen Hurst
Member-at-Large, 2 yr. term	Christian Logerstedt
Member-at-Large, 3 yr. term	Karin Wriggle

Nominating Committee 2017

The 2016 Selection Committee [Ann Laskey, Cath Clark, Phil Oliver, and Nanci Tangeman] has prepared the following slate of nominees for the 2017 Nominating Committee:

Karen Horn *

Jim McPartland

Tim Pollard *

Leslie Sepetoski

Scott Sorensen-Jolink

Anne Sullivan

* denotes new member this year.

ATTACHMENT 2: SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IMPACTING THE 2017 BUDGET

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IMPACTING THE 2017 BUDGET

DECREASES IN REVENUES

PLEDGES	\$15,000
BUILDING RENTALS	\$ 6,000
WEDDINGS	<u>\$20,000</u>
TOTAL	\$41,000

INCREASES IN EXPENSES

MAJOR BUILDING EXPENSES	\$10,000
YOUTH "TEACHER"	\$10,000
NEW FACILITIES MANAGER	\$ 7,240
\$15 MINIMUM WAGE	\$ 4,000
COST OF LIVING RAISES (1.7%)	\$ 2,500
OCWM	\$ 2,300
SANITATION	\$ 1,500
MACG	<u>\$ 1,500</u>
TOTAL	\$39,040

ATTACHMENT 3: SANCTUARY MOVEMENT TIP SHEET

SELECTIONS

Sanctuary Not Deportation: A Faithful Witness to Building Welcoming Communities

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.”

~ Psalm 91:1-2

As the faith community, we are called to accompany our community members, congregants and neighbors facing deportation.

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What is Sanctuary?

Current Day Sanctuary Movement

Drawing on this tradition, communities of faith have once again seen the need to declare Sanctuary for immigrants as the rise of deportations continues to separate families. In the 1980's we were compelled by the call to welcome the stranger, as we opened our doors to newly arriving refugees. Now we are moved by the call to love our neighbors as ourselves, as those who are entering into Sanctuary are most often long term members of our communities - our neighbors.

In 2007, an initiative known as the New Sanctuary Movement took shape with coalitions of congregations in major cities throughout the country. As work place and neighborhood raids escalated, these congregations opened their doors to provide refuge to those facing deportation. See [NSM toolkit here](http://imirj.org/new-sanctuary-movement-toolkit-for-congregations/) (<http://imirj.org/new-sanctuary-movement-toolkit-for-congregations/>).

The New Sanctuary Movement helped win [the Morton Memo and Prosecutorial Discretion](#) in 2011 and [President Obama's Executive Actions on Immigration in 2014](#), which has helped stop thousands of deportations through case-by-case advocacy. Those entering sanctuary are generally eligible for Prosecutorial Discretion, but local ICE field offices have been very reluctant to offer this relief from deportations in which the community has had to engage in public advocacy to win stays of removal or an order of supervision and in most cases.

With a Trump Administration we could potentially lose these victories, so we must work together to advocate and fight to keep prosecutorial discretion guidelines where community members can still win a stay of removal and be able to keep united with their families while having the opportunity to get a work permit and drivers license.

How do we “Declare Sanctuary?”

The public aspect of the Declaration of Sanctuary is critical. It is by bringing attention to the case, mobilizing the community, and advocating for the individual that we are able to successfully get cases closed. We encourage every community of faith to enter into a time of prayer and discernment so that when cases arise, they are ready to act. Once a congregation has made the decision to declare Sanctuary for an individual it is publicly announced at a press

conference and prayer vigil, at which time the individual and their family enters into the premises of the house of worship. The individual in need of Sanctuary remains at the house of worship until they are granted a stay of deportation. Of course, an individual may decide at any time to leave Sanctuary for any reason and should have the full support of the community to do so. Living within Sanctuary is not an easy thing; the financial cost of not working, the media attention, and the strain on a family can all be burdensome.

There has been liturgy developed by Southside Presbyterian Church and Shadow Rock UCC in Phoenix that can be adapted for a prayer vigil declaring Sanctuary, but individual congregations should develop liturgy that is appropriate to their own religious background and setting.