

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Church Council Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2017

Members Present: Peace Young, Moderator; Frank Baldwin, Assistant Moderator; Bill Sweeney, Secretary-Treasurer; Al Horn, Past Moderator; Christian Logerstedt, Karen Hurst, Karin Wriggle, Members-at-Large; Michael Ellick, Senior Minister; Elizabeth Durant, Assistant Minister. **Others Present:** Belinda Moos, Incoming Secretary-Treasurer; Alison Killeen, Hospitality Core Ministry Facilitator; Cara Rothe, Business Manager.

Opening Prayer: Moderator Peace Young opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. with a prayer.

E-vote: Minutes of the November 22, 2016 meeting were approved by e-vote on December 8, 2016.

Announcements: Peace Young announced that the following committee positions need to be filled: Financial Oversight Committee - 1 position; Selection Committee - 2 positions; Pastoral Relations Committee [PRC] - 1 position; Oliver Lecture Committee - 2 positions.

Comments:

- Rev. Ellick has the name of a possible member for Financial Oversight Committee. Peace asked Council members to suggest names for the various committees. She will send an email and announce to the congregation to solicit interested members. She will also contact Julie Young of last year's Nominating Committee to get suggestions.
- Rev. Ellick will recruit a new member for the PRC. Rev. Durant will decide later if she wants a separate PRC.
- Oliver Lecture Committee: Current members, Suzanne Mattox and Donna Brunstad, are stepping away from a leadership role but may still be interested in helping. The World Affairs Council can co-sponsor and help find speakers.
- Karen asked that Peace send the names of current committee members to Council.

Confirmation of Core Ministry Facilitators: The Council voted to confirm Grant Helbley [Community], Stephanie Mullen [Peacemaking], and Alison Killeen [Hospitality] as the 2017 Core Ministry Facilitators. [See Attachments] Rev. Ellick would like to add a Core Ministry Report section to the monthly Council meeting agenda this year.

Assistant Minister Report: See Attachments. Comments from Rev. Durant:

- She is feeling very good about monthly youth gatherings (2 per month) and monthly family gatherings at various members' homes.

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Church Council Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2017

- Summer Youth service trip: Camp Adams and Sierra Service project to southern Oregon are possibilities.
- She wants more youth involvement in worship.
- She has been very involved in SURJ and other interfaith events.
- Photo directory: Still wrapping up details. She expects it to be ready by mid Feb. Council may ask Joey to email a draft copy.
- The youth hang out area in the Kiva will have sofas, a screen, and foosball (!)

Senior Minister Report: See Attachments. Specific comments from Rev. Ellick:

- Beloved Community: Last year Hector Lopez was hired as a consultant to plan social justice ministries with other faith communities - networking with 50 faith leaders around Portland, including EMO. Two events have been held so far: About 150 attended a 9/11 memorial service at FCC. Over 800 attended an event at the Muslim Educational Trust. The third event, *Healing the Beloved Community*, will be on Sunday 1/22. It will begin at Congregation Beth Israel. Participants will march silently to Pioneer Courthouse Square for a time of silent prayer and meditation in support of those who stand to be marginalized by the incoming administration.
- ArtReach will involve more programming this year. Rev. Ellick and Sheldon Hurst are working with the Cambodian community on a new show.
- Porch sleepers:
 - In recent weeks the plan to allow people to sleep on the church porch during bad weather was not going well because sleepers weren't following the protocols regarding departure time and picking up garbage. A chapel window was broken. Rev. Ellick was thinking the program needed to be shut down.
 - About a week ago Facilities Manager Steve Eggers identified individuals that were at the core of the problems and barred them from the porch. Since then the program has been running smoothly. Rev. Ellick is now cautiously optimistic, although he says it's too soon to know if the positive changes will last.
 - If possible, Rev. Ellick would like to continue the program, which ministers to a largely invisible constituency of the church - the "Park Block people". As a practical matter, it's better for protection of church property to have these people on our side.
 - Cara Rothe has restarted the nighttime security patrols with the objective of monitoring what's happening on the porch at night. They will act only after discussion with Cara or Steve.
 - Al said it is important to make the congregation aware that allowing people to sleep on the porch is an active ministry. Rev. Ellick said he would continue to do so.

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Church Council Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2017

- Peace asked if Rev. Ellick thinks a formal decision by Council on approving this ministry can be made at next month's meeting. Rev. Ellick said he hopes so.

Core Ministry Voice: Alison Killeen

- Alison is actively learning about the Hospitality Core Ministry by talking with the ministers and Tim Pollard, last year's Facilitator.
- She is developing ideas for the ministry, but has no specifics yet.
- She is excited about welcoming new people and getting them involved.

Visioning: Welcoming New People

- A team is starting to meet to conceive of better ways welcome people into the church. Rev. Ellick asks for Council members to send our brainstorm to the ministers.
- Some ideas expressed: A personal greeting with name exchange is important. We need informal ways, outside of the worship service, to get to know people better. Nametags are important for both members and visitors. The congregation needs to be reminded to be welcoming. Our building is dark and confusing; we need people and good signage to direct people to bathrooms, sanctuary. Have greeters at multiple points. Have ushers at the entry. Brochure for first timers: info on children's program, etc; an excuse to interact and hand somebody something.

Treasurer Report: Bill Sweeney

- Year end financials are still pending due to snow.
- Estimated 2016 net profit now is \$3K, not the \$18K predicted earlier; but better than budget figure of minus \$3K.
- Financial Oversight Committee meets next week. Will send out yearend reports when available.
- Net liquidity [see Attachments] is stronger than at the end of 2015. Investments are about \$80K higher than a year ago.
- Financial Oversight Committee will look at improving the mix of investments.

Comments from Karen Hurst (not on agenda):

- Karen passed out a flier for the *Cambodian Resistance* ArtReach show beginning in February [see Attachments]
- The church web site and street signboard need to be updated more quickly (e.g. a church closure notice stayed on the website too long).
- The office needs a real person to answer phone as much as possible.
- Would like minister reports to include forward-looking ideas, not just what they've done.

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Church Council Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2017

Chapel pews: A discussion was held about what to do with the chapel pews. See Attachments. Comments:

- Doug Emmons once calculated that \$725 per year of custodian time was spent moving pews in and out of the chapel.
- Cara says these pews are "stored" in locations throughout the church. Only a few pews are attractive and useful in their storage location.
- There are enough Fellowship Hall [FH] chairs to fill the chapel. These are easily stored in the FH large closet.
- A somewhat related issue is that choir chairs [these chairs have a slot below seat for music] are being used in the chapel. Frank Baldwin said the choir would like them back. Cara said that the choir chairs stack only 3 high, and now that the room used to store them has been converted into the Music Office, there is no good place to store them on the sanctuary level. Consensus was that this problem needs to be dealt with separately.
- **Motion/Second/Vote:** Council approved the sale of excess pews in order to maximize flexibility of use of the chapel space. Initially, church members will be offered the opportunity to buy pews at a discount. After that, pews will be sold to the public.

Approve Core Ministry Policies: Tabled until next meeting.

Closing Prayer: Peace adjourned the meeting at 7:30 with a closing prayer.

Submitted by Al Horn