

Church Council Meeting – January 30, 2018

Present:

Rev. Michael Ellick, Rev. Elizabeth Durant, Moderator Sarah Vazquez, Member-at-large Karin Wriggle, Member-at-large Bill Greene, Hospitality Core Ministry facilitator Karen Hurst, Peacemaking Core Ministry Facilitator Alice Forsythe, Business Manager Cara Rothe, Past Moderator Peace Young, Communications Coordinator Maia Watkins, Member-at-large Paris Hancock, Treasurer Cath Clark, Assistant Moderator Anne Sullivan (via telephone)

Introductions – we passed around Elizabeth's phone (Anne Sullivan calling in) and we each introduced ourselves.

Opening Prayer - led by Sarah

Reflection prompt - John 17:21, and the quote: "may the borders of ourselves blur, because we need each other to be the light seeping in under the door and translating the dark."

Paris chimes in with a quote from *Pigs in Heaven* by Barbara Kingsolver. Karen quotes "Candle in the Window," by Credence Clearwater Revival, a reflection on finding God as a tiny light in the dark that can still be seen by thousands of miles of darkness. Cath Clark shares a sign she saw online from a march... it's a powerful reflection calling us into solidarity with those who are so mistreated by our society. Bill Greene talks about not wanting his borders to blur into some people, naming how divided and tense our current environment is, and how the church is a laboratory for how we might best live into the Gospel in the world as it is.

E-Vote Record – acknowledges our online vote from December 1st and November 28th

Announcements

- 1) On December 10, 2017, the congregation approved the 2018 Annual Budget
- 2) On December 10, 2017, the congregation approved all nominated Church

Treasure's Report - Cath Clark

- 1) All the new council members should be signed onto our bank account as check signers. Cath has done the prep work at the bank, but all are needed to go to the bank (Cath provided business cards for our point of contact) for this to happen.
- 2) Financial Oversight wants to formally recommend to the nominating committee that we begin the search for a new Treasurer now (not next fall). Much background and specialty knowledge is required, and it seems prudent not to put this off until the last moment. From this, conversation arises about how long the Treasurer position should be in place. Cara suggests that another three months might be helpful. But at present what's desired is an early search process, so we can keep our eyes open for someone willing to do this important work.

- 3) Review of Balance Sheet. Because Belinda had a last minute conflict she wasn't able to be present for this meeting. Cath asks for any questions that she will pass along to Belinda to respond with. She reminds the council of their responsibility for financial overview. Line by line work is done by the financial oversight committee, but it's the council's job to make sure that all the money is still in the places and buckets we think they should be (i.e., that one has gone out and drained our account somehow). In future meetings we will have a special handout that outlines the big accounts for this purpose.

Ministers' Reports

Elizabeth:

Hi-lights "getting through the holidays," a recent continuing ed. trip and one coming up; also some kids outings coming up (opening night viewing of Wrinkle in Time followed by inter-church lock in. WE talked about the difficulty of hiring a youth coordinator and asked for the Council to keep their eyes and ears open. Peace Young recommends a head-hunter, but Cara and others talk about the difficulty of using such a service for such a niche religious role.

Michael:

- Went to NY for 5 days, supporting involvement with the New Sanctuary Coalition of NYC
- Poor People's Campaign: growing involvement.
- Beloved Community has been very important.
- EMO has offered Michael employment to direct the movement. Michael has declined this offer d/t an already full plate of responsibilities.
- Raised the idea of extending a formal call to Elizabeth.
- Another idea that is brewing is to bring on another part-time minister to help alleviate workload. This may look like pastoral care, new member, and other ideas.

Congregation and Senior Minister Three Year Evaluation update

3 year evaluation of Michael:

- PRC is in charge of setting this up
- Church congregation may benefit from a church-wide visioning process.
- Without a common metric, it would be difficult to evaluate Michael's effectiveness.
- Need to have a unified vision of what we are about, what we hope for, what we are committed to.

Visioning:

- Need a subcommittee to explore this idea of visioning the church.
- Need at least one person who went through this visioning process previously

- The book “Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations” is available as a guiding resource for this committee.
- Previously there were round table discussions with church members.
- Karen Wriggle offered to be representative of council for the committee.
- Council members invited to submit names to moderator Sarah of people we’d like to invite to the committee.
- Council recommends to the ministers that undergo this visioning process.

Confirmation of Core Ministry Facilitators - Alice Forsythe and Karen Hurst (both present) and Nanci Tangeman are all welcomed.

Special Events Policy Update –

Church staff would like to “sell” alcohol (all suggested donations) at our upcoming “Bellies Do Good” on 2/17, a fundraiser for a Do Good Multnomah Woman’s Shelter. Although Cara Rothe has gone through the legal approval process, and we know from having done this before (Outwork Festivals, the Bluegrass Fundraiser for Do Good Multnomah) what is required to make this successful for the people and for our space, we are requesting Council approval to serve liquor to the public on 2/17. Cara reminds us that our insurance covers this, and she has a protocol in place where volunteers and staff watch people, remain mindful of who needs to be cut off, etc.

Karen moves that the council approves the sale of beer and wine at select church-sponsored events, in accordance with our church policy (pending). Bill Greene seconds. The motion is passed with unanimous approval.

Visioning –

Time is short at 7:53p for the visioning process that Sarah had planned. But she describes that though the church by-laws describe the technical function of the Council, Sarah would like us to explore what our highest aspiration is for church governance. In conjunction with the church-wide visioning process to be initiated, she’d like the board to reimagine how it wants to reflect our highest inspiration in our council culture.

Michael Ellick, following up on Sarah’s lead, quotes one of the chief critiques of Robert’s Rules of Order... “Every day, groups of all kinds attempt to reach agreement using Robert’s Rules of Order. These arcane rituals—otherwise known as parliamentary procedure—usually produce a victorious majority and a dissatisfied minority that can’t wait to bring issues up again until it gets what it wants. Is this the kind of culture we want? Are there other ways for us to consider decision making and communal discernment?”

Sarah also suggests that Council documents be distributed by google drive for council members to read online. If they would like printed copies for themselves, they would have to be put in the “print folder” by 6:00p the day before the council meeting in question. All the documents that need to be viewed for the meeting (not necessarily printed) will be in place by the Friday evening before the council meeting.

Closing prayer – Sarah leads this, specifying the need for prayer requests at council meetings.