Minutes of Church Council Retreat
March 25 2017

PRESENT:

Carolyn Yocom, Moderator
Brett Kassabian, Moderator Elect
Jean Wheelock, Church Clerk
Mary Summers, Treasurer
Gary Allen, Comptroller
Bruce Douglas, Member at Large
John Forrest, Member at Large
John Mingus, Member at Large
Jennifer Atkinson, Board of Christian Education

Nancy Hall, Board of Outreach and Social Justice
Robin Petrusak, Board of Trustees
Ben Northrup, Board of Trustees
George Leonard, Endowment Committee
Tom Ross, Nominations & Appointments
Barbara Lowrey, Music Committee
David Lindsey, Senior Pastor

After a light lunch, Carolyn called the retreat to order with a prayer at 12:39 pm

Carolyn began with a summary of the Listening Session which was held on March 19, 2017. Issues were consistency in communication and challenges in communication among boards and committees. Another concern was the uncertainty of what Boards and Committees can and can’t do without approval. Priorities at the Listening Session were building and grounds repair, future planning, staffing models to support the ministry, the governance model which may need new approaches to volunteering, and stewardship. It seems re governance model that no one wants to go back, but we’re not quite comfortable with where we are.

David Lindsey gave an update on the interim search. A recent interview went very well this week. The committee will need to decide whether to make an offer or interview other candidates. A discussion was held as to timing of a congregational meeting to vote on an interim candidate. Robin asked David to email Trustees re age, experience, etc., so the Trustees can begin process of developing numbers. Carolyn hopes to have the call to meeting on 4/23 and have the meeting April 30. It was determined that it’s desirable to have call posted in the bulletin and on the bulletin board. The candidate is not named in the call for a congregational meeting package. If the logistics do not work out after the meeting is called, the meeting can be canceled.

Carolyn discussed other key dates. The council agreed that having a listening session before a full council meeting is beneficial for several reasons. Discussion re whether June 18 was a good date for another listening session with an initial budget planning session for 2018 on June 25. Another full council meeting in September to tweak the budget and talk about the governance model.

David mentioned that the last Sunday in Advent is Dec. 24. The Board of Deacons (probably not alone) will need to determine whether to have a service In the morning as well as Christmas Eve services.
Carolyn spoke about Tasks: 1. Summaries to Roberta. Unsure if everyone is on email list. Roberta can use information in variety of ways. Moderator does not know everything that is going on so the meeting summaries help her, too. 2. Planning for church council sessions – if there is a motion, please present in writing to the church clerk. Members determined that three or four days’ advance notice warning of a meeting was probably ideal. It was agreed that boards and committees would send meeting summaries to Roberta and cc the church council mailing list. In order to be most helpful, the subject line should read: [Name of the Committee] Update for This Month

It was also agreed that agendas for the Governance Board and the Ministry Board will be sent to entire church council mailing list. The subject line should read: Agenda Item for X- meeting.

There was a brief discussion of staffing boards and committees; bring in others as needed on tasks or projects. The idea of different times and ways of meeting were mentioned. Council is sympathetic to obstacles to young families becoming involved. It’s difficult to attend evening meetings, but Sunday meetings also can present problems for young families.

Carolyn began a discussion of staffing. The three-pronged approach for pastoral care, children & youth, outreach and social justice has been tried more than once and hasn’t worked due to time constraints. Possible approaches: call a search committee with flexibility? Talk to some divinity schools with the idea of having divinity students as interns. David said seminaries don’t prepare seminarians for children and youth. This raises questions: how does the call go out? Need to decide what we’re advertising. Must be able to price out the candidate. Affects the 2019 budget. Interim is 12 to 18 months. If interim takes a permanent position, then the Conference will not place that person as an interim again.

- Short break -

Ben Northrup gave a demonstration of how to use the new hex keys for locking. Do not use pocket key to lock front doors anymore. He also mentioned that the telephone system is quite old and suggested we consider Voice over internet protocol when we next purchase phones. ACS used for secure information is moving toward internet basis.

Robin: Trustees met Tuesday. All windows are being washed. Re roof: the goal is to get three proposals from roofing contractors. New member Terry Downes works in construction, and someone known to him has seen the roof twice already. At same time, Trustees are seeking financing through United Church Funds which has the most attractive rates. The Co-op nursery is re-doing their hallway – cubbies will be gone. A Crew on Saturday to clean, spackle. Painting crew April 10, 11. Trustees will have supplies. Save the date, May 20, spring work day. Covering hole in ceiling, but not permanent solution. Guarantee for roof is through material. Unsure whether to take off old roof. Infrared survey suggested to detect damp.

Due to time constraints, Carolyn suggests we skip approval of minutes and do it by email.

Motion: Moved and seconded to establish a search committee for a called associate pastor position. A discussion followed. The motion passed.
The Ministry Board has a date for Open Mic night on May 20. Dave Shepherd is heading up. They asked if a free will offering basket could be available. It was moved to allow Open Mic committee to offer a free will basket. The discussion included that, if approved, the lead (Dave Shepherd) will connect with treasurer as to how to handle. Motion passed.

The Silent Auction was discussed and the ramifications, including forms to provide for IRS deductions. The Finance Committee needs specific instructions on how to handle money coming in. David apologized that he had not spoken to Doreen Manchester before the new poster was put up. Possible options were discussed, but Council was in agreement that with Jason Thompson’s ordination and a possible congregational meeting, April 30 was not a good date. Mary Summers stated that the Finance Committee would not be undertaking to estimate fair value for any items.

Other upcoming dates discussed, but no conclusion on a good date.

Carolyn will write up a summary of the retreat for Roberta to publish.

David advised that there is balance of $2500 owed to Claire Bamberg for her work at LRUCC. The Conference could not locate a written agreement. Mary suggested paying from the Transition Contingency fund. Council was not in agreement that it should be paid by LR. Carolyn will check with Rob Peterson on the issue.

The retreat was closed about 3:30 with prayer.

Submitted by Jean Wheelock, Clerk