

**First Church Congregational Council Meeting
April 26, 2022; 7:30 pm – via Zoom**

Minutes

Present: Jim Muschett, Rev. David Spollett, Rev. Vanessa Rose, Patty Bilotto, Carrie Curtin, Wendy Williams-Brown, Rita Skog, Jacque Paige, Heidi Butler

Missing: Elisabeth Pavlosky, Joy Nazzaro, Craig Way

Call to Order at 7:42pm

Invocation led by Rev. Vanessa Rose

The Minutes from the March 22 Council Meeting were Accepted and Unanimously approved.

GAC (representatives John Foley and Amy O’Shea) and First Church met last week about using 636 Old Post Road for the Irish Famine Museum.

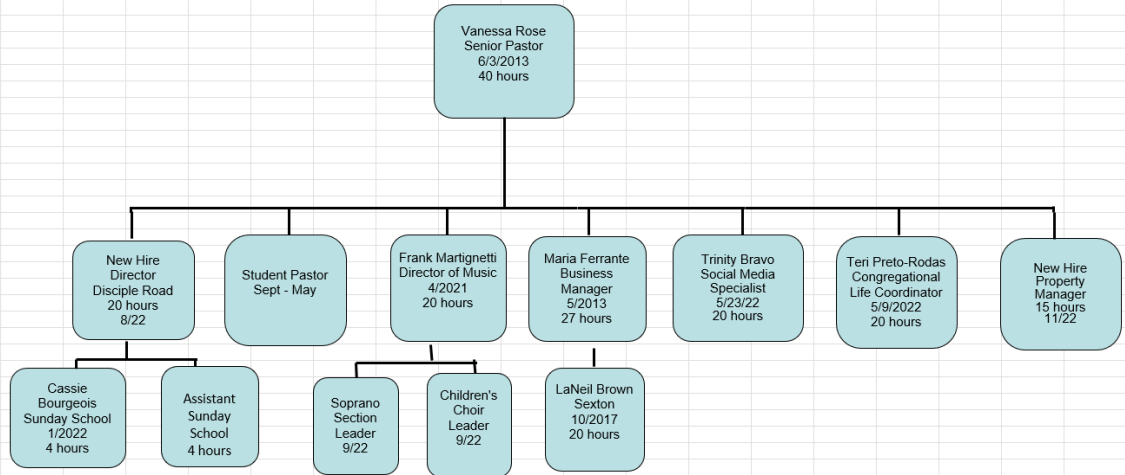
- Discuss rental and purchase.
- Timing and location are ideal.
- Willing to wait and be patient for OH to move in their own timing.
- The potential exhibits are educational and connected to the OH mission in the building.
- Craig Way to be the point person in the negotiations with GAC, FCF, and IFM. We will build out a committee.

Board Reports

Pastoral Team Report by Rev. Vanessa Rose

- Teri Preto-Rodas hired to take on the internal communication role (20 hours) of Cheri’s job and Cheri train. Interviewing candidates for the social media role.

Last Updated: 5/19/22



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- Frank is looking to hire a “Section Leader” and a Children’s Music Director. Developing job descriptions and will bring those to the Personnel Board.

Sanctuary Improvement Report by Rev. Vanessa Rose

- Working on Eunoia Room and Kitchen
- Get work done in the Jones Wing before the Fall so the Montessori School does not need to use the Toddler Room

Resource Development Report given by Jim Muschett for Joy Nazzaro

- No new pledges in last month so still at \$35300
- Finance Board met last night and reported that we are ahead of budget on pledges
- \$3063 made at Spring Event, \$1000 expenses
- Memorial Day Event with bake sale and breakfast sandwich sale, book sale, hot air balloon rides, no tag sale

Finance Report by Jacque Paige

- Working on accounting system still in Quick Books
- The Finance Board approved a motion to rent Sunnyholmes when Spolletts leave on July 1. After a 1 year rental, we will then look into renovations. A tour with Michael Traum in June is planned and then the house will be listed
- Jacque Paige made a motion to rent Sunnyholmes on July 1. Motion was seconded by Patty Bilotto and unanimously approved.

Personnel Report by Patty Bilotto

- Spoke with David McKinnis about tech role on Sundays.

Resource/Facilities Report by Craig Way

- Jones Wing roof to be completed next week.

- Electrical Upgrade approved plan from UI, electrician, and town tree warden. Now to work with Yankee Electric to quote for the plan and work on timing. New pole on Beach Road.

Outreach Report by Rita Skog

- Council of Church will have a bike collection by Golden Hill Methodist and Thursday nights will host a book study group on *Color of Compromise* by Jemar Tisby.
- CONECT house meetings are finished. They are working on bill limiting solitary confinement in CT.
- Refugee Resettlement has been highly successful. All of the adults will be employed by the end of the month. The coalition has gathered \$30K more than what we needed so discussing with IRIS about what to do with that excess.
- Fairfield Yabantu is pleased with welcome FCF has given their after school program. Next up is their Friday Street Festival on 4/29 and art gallery opening on 5/7.

New Business

- Congregant rolls update: David Spolett sent out 71 emails. 4 households want to remain members, 1 household want to be taken off, 66 did not reply. Moving forward Church can be much clearer how to use resources with this data. There are approx. 240 households in membership for approx. 400 adult members. David to prepare the new report, but last done over 10 years ago.

- May 24: All Church Meeting where the slate will be presented for Congregational approval, Pastoral reports, and votes for renovations and/or electrical.

- 2022–23 Council: David and Vanessa to work on open positions.

Future Meetings

- Council meetings are the fourth Tuesday of the month.
- June 5: David Spollett retirement party

Benediction led by Rev. David Spollett

Adjourn at 9:00

Respectfully submitted, Carrie Curtin, Clerk