

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

Attending: Jim Muschett, Rev. Vanessa Rose, Craig Way, Patty Bilotto, Jacque Paige, Joy Nazzaro, Carrie Curtin, Connie Kristy, Rita Skog, Wendy Williams-Brown, Howard Slagter, Frank Martignetti

Minutes

Call to Order by Jim Muschett at 7:39pm

Invocation by Jim Muschett

Jim Muschett made a motion approval of minutes from the June 28 Council Meeting. Patty Bilotto seconded. Unanimously approved.

Frank Martignetti: Fairfield Center Stage proposed concert production of Sweeney Todd in First Church's sanctuary, May 2023 for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday performances.

- needs Sanctuary, Lobby, Music Room, Eunoia Room, parking lot
- minimal sets and costumes
- Rehearsal March-May for approximately 2 times/week. Stipulating that rehearsal schedule will not impact First Church programming
- Strike on Saturday night so no impact on Sunday morning
- Discussion about “selling” alcohol
- Fairfield Center Stage is willing to make a donation and offer discount tickets to members through a discount code
- Fairfield Center Stage is using First Church for their gala. FCS has loaned FCC lighting for Christmas Eve. Musical is good exposure for the church and our music program
- Jim Muschett made a motion to approve FCS as a guest for the production of Sweeney Todd. Wendy Williams-Brown seconded. 10 votes to approve. 1 abstention.

Board Reports

Pastoral Team Report by Vanessa Rose

- Some interest for Building Manager position
- Very little interest in Disciple Road Ministry
- Bethany Dupuis to join team for Children’s Music Leader
- Have someone for Infant Room
- Pastoral Team retreat on a Saturday, October 29 in New Canaan

Finance Report by Jacque Paige.

- Pledging through June 2022 is on target
- Overall slightly under budget, but will potentially make up with regular givers who didn’t make pledge

Sanctuary Improvement Report by Jacque Paige.

- We will be within the \$134K budget. Savings in certain areas (Beach Road doors) and AC system in Music Room. Toddler Bathroom came in over budget. Eunoia Room Kitchen is ready to start.
- Jacque Paige made a motion to spend up to \$10K of the Rowland Road Parsonage Fund to renovate the Men's bathroom outside Sanctuary, the bathroom at the back of Webb Room, and Sunday School bathroom. Jim Muschett seconded. Unanimously approved.

Resource Development update by Joy Nazzaro.

- Welcome Back Sunday on September 11
 - Tasty Yolk and Kids on Moon Bounce house. Alphabet split for salads and desserts.
 - Set-up help and supervision for the bounce house is needed.
- Giving Sundays in October with speakers

Personnel Committee update Patty Bilotto.

- Open Positions: Associate Minister (20 hours), Property Manager, Disciple Road Leader (20 hours)
- Filled: Soprano Section Leader, Children's Music, Odyssey Fellow

Resource/Facilities update by Craig Way.

- HVAC installation and electricity is in the home stretch for completion and right on budget.
- Music/Choir/Infant Room's HVAC system is installed and working.
- Montessori needed an egress door in the old library and work on Beach Road doors.
- Operation Hope sensor for the air conditioning system malfunctioned and shut down. We had to install window and floor units. Cupola is rotting and roofers wrapped and made it water tight
- Craig Way made a motion for up to \$50k (in addition to \$10k approved in June) from Parsonage Endowment Fund for additional repairs to Sunnieholme Parsonage prior to lease start 10/1. Jim Muschett seconded. Unanimously approved.
 - plan is for a 2 year lease at \$6500/month → \$78k /year

Worship Update by Wendy Williams-Brown.

- Re-starting prayer in Children's Chapel in September.
- Bring Ushers back for greeting and collection.
- Vanessa Rose made a motion to make masks optional for worship in September. Patty Bilotto second. Unanimously approved.

Outreach Committee update by Rita Skog.

- Operation Hope Sunday Suppers needs support. Lead by Louisa Hain.
- Supporting Mercy Learning through donations
- Council of Church asking for School Supplies and clothing for Bassick High School students.
- Difficulties with technology for hybrid meetings / suggested new technology to support

- Rita made a motion to spend up to \$1200 for a Meeting Owl 3 to be used for hybrid meetings. Jim Muschett second. Unanimously approved.
 - Discussion: Need a large monitor and big screen TV. Also, we need to decide which room to plan for hybrid meetings. Working on wifi issues in building.
- Third IRRC family sponsored

In-reach update from Connie Kristy.

- Planning meeting with Elisabeth Pavlofsky.
- Exploring what ministries are active now.

Future Meetings

- Council meetings are the fourth Tuesday of the month.
- Next meeting: September 27, 7:30pm (zoom vs in-person TBD)

Benediction by Rev. Vanessa Rose

Adjourn at 9:22pm

Respectfully submitted, Carrie Curtin, Clerk