**First Church Congregational Council Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 28; 7:30 pm – via Zoom**

In Attendance: Jim Muchett, Rev. Vanessa Rose, Craig Way, Howard Slagter, Joy Nazzaro, Rita Skog, Wendy Williams-Brown, Carrie Curtin

**Minutes**

Call to Order by Jim Muschett

Invocation

**Board Reports**

Pastoral Team update by Vanessa Rose. (I was a few minutes late to the meeting so I missed the Invocation and Vanessa’s report.)

Resource Development update was made by Joy Nazzaro

* Emails and calls to missing individuals who have not made a pledge.
* Current total for 2023 is $334,520
* Memorial Day event with breakfast sandwiches, bounce house, and Remax Hot Air balloon rides.
* 3 Kings Bazaar will be on Saturday, December 2nd.
* Looking for new people to join the committee.
* Pentecost anniversary “giving day” idea for 384 years
* increase online giving options/presence

Finance update by Howard Slagter.

* behind on budget by about $5000 /due to electric bill and invoice delays / expected in first couple months of the year
* John Harmon has left the Finance Committee. Still meeting requirements for the Finance Board.
* Pricilla is the new bookkeeper coming on board on April 4.

Personnel update by Jim Muschett.

* updated employee manual
* set with slate of candidates for Annual Meeting in May

Resource/Facilities update by Craig Way.

* Albert has been a big support to Facilities.
* Securing Wakeman Hall with camera and buzzer
* laundry area of Ubantu almost complete
* Jones Wing passed Fire inspection and then Health inspection next week after a few small projects.

Worship update by Wendy Williams-Brown.

* 3 services on Easter Sunday
* 1 service on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday / need ushers
* Palm Sunday meeting on Town Green to process with palms / 2 ushers + 4 Deacons

Outreach update by Rita Skog.

* Covenant to Care with Easter Baskets.
* Council of Churches Gala on May 4th
* Working for Racial Justice presenting Deeper Than The Skin on April 14
* CONECT worked on Criminal Legal Reform bill and Equity in Education bill passed last night and will go to Assembly
* Adult Faith Formation on Monday night regularly
* June 10th Deacons planning a trip to The Cloisters

**New Business**

Safety Committee update by Jim Muschett. Spoke about Church emergency planning / fire department / security specialist / focus on safety on Pastoral Team safety / looking at securing Wakeman Hall area

Rev. Vanessa Rose made a motion to ask Rev. Jake Joseph to convene an ad hoc group to update the language of the Open and Affirming Statement. Jim Muschett seconded. Unanimously approved.

**Future Meetings**

• Council meetings are the fourth Tuesday of the month.

• Next meeting: April 25, 7:30pm (zoom vs in-person TBD)

Benediction led by Rev. Vanessa Rose

Adjourned at 8:43

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Curtin, Clerk