**First Church Congregational Council Meeting**

**Tuesday, October 25; 7:30 pm – via Zoom**

**Minutes**

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

Call to Order 7:33pm

Invocation delivered by Rev. Vanessa Rose

Update from Frank Martignetti

* Issue with recent tuning of organ / currently using non-local company that built organ
* Seeking new company that is local that can service more regularly and in an emergency
* noted recent issues: tear in leather and minor electronics issue that may be pressing
* Music Board in favor of having a local company to start a new contract with a local company
* Frank will be writing a letter to Klais to not renew the service contract for 2023 and make plan to budget for annual maintenance
* Question: Will we be paying for the recent service if it is not satisfactory? Will discuss with the company President.
* Question: Will using another company to service the organ void a warranty? Need to check the hard copy of the contract.

Approval of minutes from the September 27 Council Meeting made by Jim Muschett, second by Howard Slagter. Motion was unanimously approved.

Leadership retreat recap. “Love All” strategic pathway action items.

* Focused outward and to be welcoming to other people in the community.
* Candle of Witness for Love All Pathway in December

**Board Reports**

Pastoral Team update by Vanessa Rose

* Maria Ferrante resigned. Pastoral team will have a luncheon for her.
* Looking for new Business Manager
* Ongoing search for Property Manager
* Ariana Hones coming on 10 hours/week as a Student Minister. Background: Peace Corps in Morocco. Interviewed with Vanessa, Wendy Williams-Brown, and David McKinnis.

Sanctuary Improvement update by Jacque Paige

* spent $95K / approved budget was $134K / will likely spend all budgeted
* still to finish Jones wing bathroom and Eunoia kitchen
* Sunnieholme: repairs in September for $50K (under budget of $60K) and now renters are in and paying

Resource Development update by Joy Nazzaro

* Stewardship: Rev. Jake Joseph did an exceptional service last week. Tré Kayumba speaking next week / following service there will be breakfast sandwiches
* Three Kings Bazaar set up Tuesday, November 29th / 45-50 people involved

Finance update by Howard Slagter

* Budgets needed 11/15
* Currently ahead of budget. Waiting to close out all of the Sanctuary and building repairs
* Pledges are where we had hoped for this time of year
* slowly transferring gains from Rowland Road Parsonage sale to investments/securities

Personnel update by Jim Muschett

* Maria did not want a sendoff at a worship service. There is a collection being set-up.
* Jacque Paige has volunteered as the temporary business manager and facilities manager.
* An Associate Pastor search committee is being formed. If interested, reach out to Jim Muschett.

Resource/Facilities update by Craig Way

* Many projects completed or in process
* screening the Sanctuary HVAC unit with landscaping
* finalizing Beach Rd door to meet code
* Wifi difficulties in Sanctuary / solution is still in development

Worship update by Wendy Williams-Brown

* Vanessa’s installation on November 20, 2022 / if you want to help contact Jim Muschett

Outreach update by Rita Skog

* Covenant for Care for Thanksgiving
* Children’s gifts for Christmas
* great turn out for CONECT gubernatorial debate / would like to do a Candle of Witness about CONECT’s legislative requests (11/27)

Faith Formation update by Rita Skog

* John Harmon is doing Monday night sessions with good turnout
* Advent would be another time to have a session with Tre or a devotional series
* Films with programs/discussions afterwards from Tre about racial justice in January

**New Business**

Worship service security

* Continue conversation and prayer
* Put together an Emergency Plan?
* Fairfield Police Department puts of trainings/workshops for faith communities
* Jim Muschett will reach out to Police Chief Robert Kalamaras

Ushers and Greeters

* Question about process for the collection from 8:15 service

Serving wine/beer at church rental events

* still researching permitting/license

**Future Meetings**

• Council meetings are the fourth Tuesday of the month.

• Next meeting: November 29, 7:00pm (in-person) and then helping with 3 Kings set up

• All Church Finance Meeting: February 21, 2023 (hybrid with desserts and coffee)

Benediction by Rev. Vanessa Rose

Adjourned at 8:42

Respectfully submitted, Carrie Curtin, Clerk