

Church Council Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2018

6:00pm – 8:00pm

FCC UCC Portland Basement Classroom

1. **Reflection: Blessing This Place (Michael/Elizabeth) 5:30- NTL 6:15**
   1. **Members of council gathered for prayer and spiritual action to bless this church**
   2. **Gathered at start of Regular Council meeting to review experience and give feedback**
2. **Opening Prayer (Sarah) 6:15** 
   1. **Prayer led by Michael**
   2. **Sarah read the Blessing**
3. **E-Vote Record:** 
   1. On April 5th, 2018, Council approved the March 20, 2018 Council Meeting Minutes by E-Vote. Documents stored on Church Website.
4. **Announcements/Updates/Reminder** 
   1. Housekeeping:
      1. Please be sure to upload documents by the Friday before Council meets.
   2. Bookkeeper position filled:
      1. Cara reports hiring of Andre Cordes. He has already started and is fitting in beautifully already.
   3. Senior Minister Evaluation **(Michael)**
      1. Michael reports this is being developed by his PRC.
      2. There are 3 rough phases for his own evaluation
      3. there has not been any clear consensus on his Job Description
   4. Around the room
      1. Elizabeth reports that Batya has resigned.
      2. Elizabeth has prepared a job description to begin recruitment
5. **Treasurer’s Report (Cath)** 
   1. Cath reports that Clark Binkley expressed interest to resign from FOC.
   2. Nominating Committee has found a replacement
   3. Council discussed proposal of Paul Adcock for FOC
   4. Discussed needs vs. skills
   5. A Particular role that Clark filled was around Investments
   6. Clark has agreed to remain available for consultation around investments
   7. Council is suggesting that Clark perhaps try to train someone on FOC on Investments
   8. Motion to accept resignation of Clark Binkley from FOC and approve nomination of Paul Adcock; (thereby naming FOC members: Catherine Clark, William (Bill) Cunitz, Sunil (Ann) Narayan, Edward (Ted) Heid, Belinda Moos, Paul Adcock) by Karin Wriggle
   9. Motion Seconded by Paris Hancock
   10. Motion was approved by a majority vote.
6. **Council Visioning: Meeting Guidelines (Peace/Anne)** 
   1. Peace projected meeting guidelines draft for full council review
   2. Collectively reviewed and revised; the group did not reach consensus on Item 3 which states, “Better to give the floor to someone for speaking, rather than taking space/floor from them. Be more giving, rather than waiting for others to take it.”
   3. The group determined we will proceed with this version as a draft of guidelines while continuing to brainstorm wording/sentiment for Item 3.
   4. This will remain a dynamic process, open to changes and modification

1. **Congregation Strategic Visioning (Bill Cunitz/Karin Wriggle)** 
   1. Bill introduced the work that has commenced thus far
   2. there was a meeting held of the task force
   3. developed a proposal to put forth
   4. Karin and others shared from their experience of this
   5. Lessons seem to stem from realization that not all members of this task team were on the same page, surely members of congregation are not
   6. No real document of “Who we are” at First Congregational
   7. There is a rough draft of a plan to propose this visioning process
      1. Steps: begins with a Season of Listening
      2. Needs:
         1. Development of a new Committee to lead this Season of Listening
         2. Michael and Elizabeth will develop a calendar of sermons, story labs…
         3. Could include opportunities to put memories on a wall, perhaps by decades. Where was god for you when…? Visual display of how we attach to our roots

iii. Timeframe: (Discussion with Bill and others)

1. 4-8 months?
2. Shorter?
3. Longer?
4. Discussed pros and cons.
5. Determined will need to allow process to unfold and evolve as we go
6. Some discussion of need to plan for how to move around the holidays while not losing momentum
7. **Core Facilitators Voice (Karen Hurst, Hospitality)** 
   1. See Hospitality Report in Council folder on Google drive

1. **Ministers’ Report: Calling Elizabeth Durant (Bill Cunitz, PRC)** 
   1. Bill presented the work of Elizabeth’s PRC to develop her Call Agreement
   2. Currently no formal job description
   3. Discussion of her Ministry to the church and the impact on Budget
   4. Plan:
      1. Read the Call Agreement.
      2. Come to May Council with any questions we have
      3. Come to May Council with any questions we think the congregation may have
2. **Parking Lot Items: NONE**
3. **Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer** 
   1. Elizabeth closed the meeting with prayer requests and a prayer