

Church Council Minutes
January 15, 2019

PRESENT: Rev, Dr. Janet Parker, Rev. Elizabeth Durant, Karen Hurst, Ann Sullivan, Nanci Tangeman, Cara Rothe, Paris Hancock, Cath Clark, Sarah Vazquez, and visitor Paul Adcock

OPENING PRAYER led by Rev. Elizabeth

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sarah will send an email about the upcoming celebration at Paris' house- spouses and kids welcome

Annual Meeting Agenda was shared

Nanci reported on the need to supplement Called to Care members as some of them are themselves in need of support. The Soul Boxes are heading to Salem on Feb. 15; Nanci handed out cards with the contact information for participation. Elizabeth and Janet noted that we should add this info. to the bulletin.

Karen Hurst shared that fellowship hour is set up for this year, but she's still searching for someone to share the gig and eventually take over. She would like us to add to the next agenda: staffing for the Welcome Table. Janet has some ideas for welcoming prospective/new members.

Janet reported that Cheryl Clevenger has agreed to help with Peacemaking and Margaret Baldwin with Community.

IWCD

We held a discussion about the ministry implications involved with our Immigrant Welcoming Declaration; Elizabeth reminded us that Peacemaking funds that are not specifically allocated may be used for immigrant justice efforts. Karen asked about an on-going committee to support immigrants- will it be the initial group who wrote the draft or a new group? Sarah will write a statement from Council declaring our support for the I.J. Declaration.

ASSISTANT MINISTER REPORT

Elizabeth shared her Assistant Minister Report. Ongoing events include Confirmation Class, Eve's Circle on Jan.26, and the ArtReach Adult Education Series. Elizabeth's official last day will be Feb. 12.

YOUTH LIAISON TO COUNCIL

Sarah spoke about adding a youth liaison to Council to reflect our belief that youth should be heard and respected. A particular youth is positive about the gig and would need to be confirmed. We could add the wording "pending confirmation" to our vote on the 27th. Whether or not we can have the youth liaison function as a member-at-large is in question. We will investigate making this position permanent during the year either way.

BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT

Cara discussed the "membership scrub" and handed out a list of former members who were sent letters concerning whether or not they wanted to retain membership. She heard back from only two and asked for our input on any we knew. Nanci suggested that we use social media to connect with former members also. Active membership is at about 200 while there is an average of about 110 members in church every Sunday; Janet mentioned that the trend is to count #s in church for a member count.

Our lease is up with the Portland 5 in November which will allow us to renegotiate and Edward E. is hiring an attorney for us to assist with this task. The present strategy in consideration is to seek a 3% raise every year.

SR MINISTER REPORT

Janet presented her Senior Minister Report. Janet would like the focus of 2019 to be a “HEALTHY TRANSITION” and presented her proposal for key ministry initiatives: community, hospitality, and peacemaking. She would appreciate our consideration and feedback on her proposal.

BUDGET

Cath presented her budget report. “There are many moving parts” right now, so here are just a few highlights:

- *Cath shared her narrative for the congregation
- *Anne suggested that Cath write something up explaining the line items for youth mission funds
- *Council decided to extend Elizabeth’s salary through February and benefits through March.
- *Budget item #6957 for \$8,000 serves to fund transition expenses including such things as transporting candidates and hiring a consultant
- *Modest raises were given to staff
- *Employing part-timers helps with budget savings
- *Closing the building on Mondays and Friday afternoons also helps
- *Janet requested that we add Elizabeth’s Feb/March pay into the line items and evote
- *Good news is that we had planned to pull out \$127,000 from reserve funds and we only pulled out \$116,000.

Cath very eloquently shared that our goal is to respect our predecessors and these reserved funds by avoiding depleting them.

Sarah and the entire Council thanked Cath and Cara for their hard work reducing the budget and yet still honoring with staff with raises.

PRAYER REQUESTS & CLOSING PRAYER led by Rev. Janet

Submitted by Paris Hancock