

Church Council Meeting
September 21, 2021
6:30pm – 8:30pm
Conducted via Zoom

Present: **Margaret Baldwin, Daniel Russo, Phil Owen, Kathy Sheibley, Jack Allman, Edward Eggleston, Eric Elnes, Nan Wagner, Ann Muir**

1. 6:30- 6:40 Opening words- Margaret

- a. From a UCC devotional - words vs. "The Word"

2. 6:40-7:00 Staff reports

a. Eric Elnes- senior pastor-

- i. Discussion of tech issues at Sunday's service
 - 1. An echo with a six-second delay was present for a while because of the way YouTube was set up with the sound system
 - 2. Need to overhaul sound system
 - 3. Very pleased with the rest of the aspects of the service
- ii. Pastoral ministry
 - 1. Coffee house group
 - 2. Called to Care
 - 3. Working at home and church

b. Edward Eggleston- treasurer

- i. Not present yet
- ii. Need numbers for proposal

3. 7:00- 7:10 Announcements

a. Acceptance of August minutes, Special session, 9/2/21

- i. Jack, Daniel approve; Phil abstains (wasn't there); all others present already approved

b. No Oliver lecture in the next few months

4. 7:10- 8:00 Discussion

a. all the good stuff that's happening on Sunday am- reports from each of you

- i. Phil: Really impressed by Mystical Meditation
- ii. Ann: Jazz singers and performers were really incredible; in-person 9am went really well
- iii. Kathy: Enjoyed music while watching on Zoom
- iv. Nan: Zoom technical difficulties didn't get in her way; enjoyed conversation with Gareth Higgins, message about fear
- v. Jack: Participated in service in a sort of sidekick role; didn't feel awkward
- vi. Phil: Was caught off guard by having to do the reading twice
- vii. Edward: How are we tracking people who are streaming the service?
 - 1. Eric: Trevor? Will ask at staff meeting
- viii. Edward: Enjoyed guest interview
- ix. Margaret: Can we order copies of Gareth's book?
- x. Eric: Rabbi Brian's website: <http://www.rotb.org> (Religion Outside the Box)
- xi. Margaret: Was concerned that there were only about 6 people at the start of the service, but people started to trickle in later, until there were around 60

- xii. Eric: 120 views on YouTube

b. worship teams and ushers

- i. Margaret: no worship team for meditation service
- ii. Eric: could use people to help with incense, candles; Eric took things down on Monday morning; ushers for Zoom service would be helpful; need box for storing the donations in the sanctuary---maybe the lockbox Edward bought?
- iii. Margaret: sat behind someone who didn't have a mask, and there wasn't anyone to address it---an usher would help with that
- iv. Eric: we need to determine where there's an actual need, and address it (analogy to planting grass and seeing where it gets worn down before creating paths)
- v. Phil: noticed that no one collected a check that was left in the basket at the back of the room
- vi. Margaret: expecting to find ushers to stay through three services is unreasonable
- vii. Edward: explanation of FOC policy on collecting donations (one FOC member is present at services to collect)
- viii. Margaret: Edward to have discussion with FOC to figure out how to modify FOC policy to handle the three-hour church program on Sundays
- ix. Edward: need to beef up online giving procedure
- x. Nan: (on giving) "The box, the basket, and the button"
- xi. No ask for money is currently built into the meditation service
- xii. Margaret: no way to tell in which service money left in the box was given
- xiii. Kathy, Phil: volunteered to help with handling money from the box
- xiv. Margaret: box needs to be nailed down

c. to coffee or not to coffee- when, how?

- i. Margaret: some people brought coffee (and donuts), some of whom had enough to share; Jack offered it to musicians
- ii. Jack: it's a long time to go without food if people are there all morning
- iii. Concern about people taking down their masks to drink coffee or eat
- iv. Eric: people have been behaving responsibly so far about putting their masks back on
- v. Ann: people need to model good etiquette for eating and drinking; maybe a formal demonstration?
- vi. Margaret: should we allow people (or even give them) something to eat?
- vii. Eric: suggested donut holes
- viii. Will people serve themselves, or will we have a "barista" who brings it to them
- ix. Phil: concern about people tripping over wires if they're getting up during the Art & Soul Café
- x. Margaret: concern about noise from espresso machine
- xi. Consensus vote: it's okay to serve coffee at Sunday services; staff will work out the details

d. what to do with the offering

- i. Eric: showing options for donation box: chose acrylic model on stand, with wheels (may not use wheels); should we have two different boxes for upstairs and downstairs?
- ii. Edward: box could be stored in chair storage

e. technological challenges and how to fix them

- i. Eric: the plan is to have two tech people present during the service; still need to hire a second one; need someone to monitor what things sound like on Zoom
- ii. Eric: would like to stream directly to Facebook and YouTube without having to go through Zoom, which degrades the quality; perhaps add a 5-10 minute break between service and concert to allow people to talk among themselves

- f. **Decision about whether to continue new service format: Sunday, November 21, 12:30pm**
- g. **Covenanting service: Sunday, December 12**
- h. **Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 30**

- 5. **8:00- 8:15 Update from Phil Owen on Budgeting process and stewardship meeting 9/7/21**
 - a. Still working on it

- 6. **8:25- 8:30 Closing words - Eric**

Council Meeting Guidelines

- ◇ I listen actively, generously, graciously.
- ◇ I approach problem-solving with an attitude of I can and I will.
- ◇ I am not afraid of disagreement and conflict.
- ◇ I am mindful of my own judgments and reactions.
- ◇ I am willing to question my cherished beliefs and patterns.
- ◇ I am curious of what I don't know and treat everything I hear as an opportunity to grow.
- ◇ I speak out of personal experience (example using “I” statements).
- ◇ I consider the impact of my privilege before speaking.
- ◇ I will find my voice, be courageous, and speak up.
- ◇ I encourage others to speak up, especially when their voice has not yet been heard.
- ◇ I keep comments concise to honor group time constraints and create space for all