

Church Council Meeting, June 15, 2021, 6:30pm – 9:20pm via Zoom

Present: Margaret Baldwin, Phil Owen, Daniel Russo, Edward Eggleston, Jack Allman, Christina Hellums, Kathy Sheibley, Cara Rothe, Eric Elnes, Nan Wagner

1. Opening words- Margaret Baldwin shared “What is Deep Listening?”
2. Staff reports
 - a. Rev Eric expressed need to amend his approach to asking for big donations for the Art&Soul Café/2nd Sunday plans. He has come up with an alternative leanest possible model that could be supported by our congregation alone if necessary. He reviewed the proposed contemplative meditation service, modeled after [St. Mark’s Compline](#) service in Seattle and the [Day One](#) service at CCCUCC in Omaha.
 - b. Cara Rothe- [business manager report](#)
 - i. The job market is dismal: *no* applicants for Facilities Manager, wages raised for Custodian/event staff with hopes of drawing more applicants. Bookkeeper was hired but resigned almost immediately to go back to her old job. We have many qualified applicants for Office Coordinator. Ryan and Jake are working out well and assuming more responsibilities.
 - ii. Cara expressed concern about staff being ready if we change our plan to weekly in person church soon. She *does* feel they’ll be ready for plans as set out so far, especially 2nd Sundays. Volunteers from the congregation may be necessary but everything takes training.
 - iii. Please visit the refreshed [website](#).
 - iv. There was much discussion regarding [South Park Blocks Master Plan](#). Metro and downtown museums were well represented, downtown churches and homeless services were not. Considering First Congregational’s needs Cara does not support the current plan especially how it will affect parking around the church. A committee is forming to review the plan, represent the church’s best interest and raise awareness with the congregation. Members: Jack Allman, Eric Elnes, Ted Heid (Margaret will ask him). Edward Eggleston and Cara Rothe will advise. Public hearing set for July 7th 2-3:45 pm
 - c. Edward Eggleston- [treasurer’s report](#) “We’re doing fine.”
Congregational Giving is up. Expenses are down, as is rental income due to building closure. Increased spending is anticipated with upcoming reopening.
3. A motion was made by Phil Owen to financially support Visitors to the upcoming [General Synod](#), July 11-18, 2021 via Zoom. After discussion it was amended, moved to adopt by Jack Allman, Edward Eggleston seconded, and passed unanimously as follows:
FCUCC will reimburse the General Synod registration fees for up to six FCUCC members who attend the General Synod as visitors. We encourage attendance of at least four workshops each and the reporting of relevant information back to the congregation. Council authorizes vice moderator Phil Owen to issue a general invitation to members and coordinate workshop attendance to ensure maximum coverage and reporting.
4. Announcements:
 - a. Graduates- Eric will use VideoAsk to help celebrate the HS and college graduates and all will receive compasses.
 - b. Monthly updates from [Art Festival](#) committee, [Bienvenidos](#) quilters are in the Drive, which are both thriving and gaining momentum.
5. Grant proposal D discussion: 2nd Sunday/Art&Soul Café

- a. Discussion on this topic went on for more than an hour. Please see Margaret's excellent summary linked [HERE](#). Please see Phil Owen's excellent timeline chart linked [here](#).
- b. The congregation seems confused about what is being proposed. Christina Hellums offered to build a PowerPoint to help clarify the proposal and the financial outlay. Jack Allman and Eric Elnes will film a short explanatory video "on location" for use in the service. Phil Owen will support.
- c. Many feel there is a "Vocal Minority" speaking out against the proposed plans and other voices are not speaking up.
- d. Eric is putting an FAQ together regarding the proposal to post on the website

We adjourned at 9:20.

Respectfully submitted by Nan Wagner