



First Congregational United Church of Christ • Portland

Church Council ~~Agenda With~~ Agenda/Minutes

September 17, 2019

6:00pm – 8:00pm

FCUCC Portland, Basement Classroom

1. Opening Prayer, (**Janet**)
2. Meeting Guidelines (**Anne**)
3. Reflection: Reading (**Anne**)
4. August minutes review and vote: (**Anne**) *August minutes were reviewed and passed by a majority vote.*
5. Announcements/Updates/Reminder
 - a. Housekeeping: Role of Meeting Visitors (**Anne**) No visitors to this meeting
 - b. Around the room:
 1. Official vote for Ann Laskey as CPC Delegate (**Anne**) *moved and 2nd. Vote passed*
 2. Stewardship chair ~~and members~~: Elaine Molskness
 3. Lease discussion update: *Appraisal Report is complete and in hand*
 4. Will ask Andre' to set up a monthly email about council meeting the Friday before to the ~~congregation~~ congregation
 - c. Stewardship: Timeline clarifications (**Anne and Janet**)
 - i. Janet gone 10/28-11/9. Guest speaker on 11/17 for Pledge Sunday.
 - ii. Pledge Sunday 11/17
 - iii. November Council –11/19: no budget vote. Discuss Budget forum
 - iv. Budget to Council: December 3
 - v. Budget Forum: December 8
 - vi. Annual Meeting: December 15
 - vii. Council Christmas Party: December 17 at Cheryl Clevenger's!
 - d. Kick off for Stewardship: *proposed for October 20th. Janet to confirm with team*
6. Discussion of Temporary Combined Music Leadership (**Anne and Janet**)
 - i. Transition: Grant/Michael/Janet mtg to discuss
 - ii. Feedback from Council on congregational response
 1. Some positive and hopeful
 2. Most are concerned for Michael's wellbeing
 - iii. Good bye Celebration for Michael: on October 5.

1. Margaret will ask Sahni Denton and Ann Laskey if they can organize Celebration
2. Margaret recommends a "Card shower" for congregants
3. Consider asking someone to take on Decorations
4. Margaret will not be in town on October 5

iv. **Discussion of scope with simple combination of job descriptions**

1. **Additional tasks/responsibilities/deliverables/recommendations?**

- a. *Experimental Music Sundays were nice to have*
- b. *New Music, World Music*
- c. *Speak to Values we are seeking in job description*
- d. *State expectations of diversity, creativity, curiosity*
- e. *State the Characteristics of person we are looking for*
- f. *Remove the policy and benefits section*

7. **Core Facilitator Voice: Hospitality/Community/Peacemaking**

a. **Update from review of structure and meeting with past facilitators**

i. **Follow up on this proposal to review Governance Model**

1. **Janet met with Past and Present Core Facilitators**

- a. *Good meeting*
- b. *Useful to hear past experiences*
- c. *Discussed fact that Facilitators feel Invisible to congregation*
- d. *Discussed a more intentional hand-off to successors*
- e. *Discussed ways to create synergy across multiple core ministries*
- f. *No one knew that there could be an assistant facilitator*

b. **Fellowship discussion: (Janet)**

i. **Tabled to a future meeting.**

8. **Treasurer's Report: (Belinda)**

- *YTD thru August we continue to be unfavorable in income by (\$38k) which has been offset by expense savings of \$69k when compared to Budget.*
- *Pledge income unfavorable both MTD and YTD and is currently trending at 98.3% of budgeted target.*
- *Year to date unfavorable in Pledges, General Gifts, Rental Income, and Annex Sublease.*
- *Month to date we are favorable Annex Sublease as we continue to increase occupants in our open offices.*
- *Expense continues to run favorably both Month to Date and Year to Date due to timing on expenses (Transition categories), building*

related expenses – (have some electrical work completed in August), labor savings (Custodial and Christian Ed).

- *August did incur remainder of the Transition Consultant fees and travel related costs.*
- *Other Professional fees related to the Ground Lease Appraisal for \$5k paid in August – one-time expense not incorporated into Budget.*
- *2020 Budget update – had our first meeting in August. Expect to report Preliminary Budget review to Council during October meeting.*

9. Business Manager Report (Cara)

- Flooding:** *some last week and again yesterday and today. Being investigated and will have a remediation plan soon. Recommended an all-church email go out.*
- Library:** *Newly refinished floors are beautiful. Have furniture arriving slowly, Chandelier is hung. Bookshelves arrived but not installed yet due to the flooding occupying staff time. Could possibly unpack library next week or so. Choir would like the boxes of books moved sooner rather than later, due to boxes blocking their access to cubbies.*
- PPOP:** *Thanked church very graciously for partnership in this ministry*

10. Ministers' Report (Janet)

- Pastoral needs shared
- Worship Team held first meeting: Gary Vaughn, Sarah Vazquez, Julie Blanchard, Margaret Baldwin, Avena Ward, Pam Fine, Grant Edwards, Janet Parker.....
 - Discussed spectrum of differences in preferences for service structure
 - Next meeting will discuss our actual service ~~and~~
 - Discuss how to be more intentional, inclusive, and playful
 - Serve as sounding board for staff and listening post for congregation
 - Evaluate our worship experience with congregation
 - Incorporate other arts in worship in addition to music
- Children's Time
 - Discussed challenges of not having kids in services
 - Have recently discussed with Family Ministries team: Will have a note in bulletin stating there will not be a Children's ~~story Time~~ if there are no children present
- CPC Annual Meeting: Pam Fine will lead service here at First
- Blessing of the Animals on October 13th.
- Service for Healing and Remembrance: October 27th
- All Saints service November 3
- Transition Team: Developing Conversations with congregation focused on Who are We, Who is our Neighbor and Who is God calling us to become.
- Proposed we adopt a Logo that has been in use more casually for last year.

i. Moved and Seconded.: motion passed

11. Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer (Janet)