



First Congregational
United Church of Christ • Portland

Church

Council Minutes October 15, 2019

6:00pm – 8:00pm

FCUCC Portland, Basement Classroom

Recorded by Daniel Russo, Vice Moderator

Present: Moderators Anne Sullivan, Daniel Russo, and Sarah Vasquez, Core Ministry Facilitator and Member at Large Margaret Baldwin, Treasurer Belinda Moos

Also present: Rev. Janet Parker, Cara Rothe, Sheldon Hurst

1. Opening Prayer (Janet)

- a. Said by Janet.

2. Meeting Guidelines (Anne)

- a. Read by participants as it was passed around the table.

3. Announcements/Updates/Reminder

- a. Around the room:

- 1. Stewardship Team: (Anne)

- a. Has met
 - b. Theme is Re-member/Re-envision/Re-invest
 - c. Sending out 2 letters to the congregation
 - i. 1 from Janet will go out 10/20 (right before the launch)
 - ii. 1 from the Stewardship Team on 11/12 (w/pledge card)
 - d. Stewardship weeks: 10/20, 11/3 (Sermon by Denise, Stewardship by Jessica), 11/10, 11/17 (guest speaker), 11/24 (Bill Cunitz)
 - e. Not doing a call campaign

- 2. Lease discussion update (Janet)

- a. Metro has replaced their lawyer

- b. New lawyer is expected to have a final answer today about whether we have a consensus or will head to arbitration
- 4. E-Vote Record (Anne)
 - a. September minutes passed
- 5. Vote to Approve August Minutes
 - a. Motion: Margaret, Second: Belinda
 - b. Approved by all in attendance
- 6. Budget Presentation (Belinda)
 - a. List of significant changes
 - i. Income
 - 1. PCPA Lease Increased
 - 2. General Giving, Building Rental, Annex, and Other Decreased
 - ii. Expenses
 - 1. Ministerial Transition Placeholder replaced with Director of Faith Formation and Pastoral Ministry Associate (Aveena)
 - 2. Immigration Task Force added
 - 3. Oliver Lecture and ArtReach budgets increased
 - 4. Ministerial compensation increased (anticipating new hire)
 - 5. Personnel compensation and expenses increased
 - 6. Annex Subrent increased (based on increase in ground lease)
 - 7. Additional transition expenses
 - 8. Net Music Program expenses decreased
 - 9. Assistant Minister removed
 - 10. Building Related and Other expenses decreased
 - iii. Reserve Spending Reductions
 - 1. Reserve Fund Transfer
 - 2. Youth Mission
 - 3. Transition Reserve
 - b. Discussion
 - i. Further clarification of changes in youth income/spending
 - ii. Director of Faith Formation is a lay position we're going to establish instead of hiring a new Assistant or Associate Minister
 - iii. Substitute preacher expenses increased because there will be a three-week gap between Interim Minister and new Settled Minister
 - iv. Vote to increase contribution to Our Church's Wider Mission by 3% of 2020 income. This will represent a doubling of our current percentage of income. Each year, Council will review what the year-over-year increase will be.
 - 1. Motion: Belinda, Second: Daniel
 - 2. Approved by all attendees

7. Core Facilitator Voice: Hospitality/Community/Peacemaking

- a. Next steps for Governance review? **Not addressed**
- b. Reporting request: Not discussed
- c. Fellowship discussion: **(Janet)** Only briefly introduced. More discussion to follow

8. Homeless neighbors discussion (Sarah, Anne, Janet)

- a. Cara: Uptick in overnight porch population
 - i. Talking with police, security companies
 - ii. May install camera that can be monitored via phone app
 - iii. Proposal for a Street Ministry Team that will interface between congregation and church leadership about the situation
- b. Sarah: SPOC is in a holding pattern due to the congregation being in transition.
- c. Anne: Create a conversation in the hope of moving from fear to understanding, figuring out what's actually helpful
- d. Anne: It appears some members have felt called to offer breakfast to some of our visitors, which had an unintended impact of these visitors then "expecting" breakfast. Suggesting we make a conscious decision on this and post a clear schedule for when we offer free breakfasts so folks preparing Fellowship food aren't being asked to provide breakfast by our homeless visitors. Again, more discussion needed on this.
- e. Janet: Maybe the transition team can help?
- f. Anne: Do not think this falls under the tasks of Transition team. Their deliverable now is to write the Local Church Profile. However, some of the notes from their discussions with congregation may be good information for a work group to have access to.

9. Business Manager Report (Cara)

- a. Flooding repairs are going to take a while
- b. Library window repairs are beginning
- c. Janet: IWC meeting raised the question of whether there's any way to install a shower here for potential sanctuary sheltering
 - i. Cara: alternative: sponge baths

10. Ministers' Report (Janet)

- a. Will be shared on Google Drive
- b. We're receiving 7 new members

11. Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer (Janet)