

KVCC Church Council Meeting Minutes

August 24, 2021

Present: Karen Glass, Pastor John Sampson, Elizabeth Davidson Derr, Erica Swift, Naj Wikoff, Linda Bogardus, Linda LaBarge, Liz Jaques, Annie Scavo, Dan Mason, Tom Both, Barbara Merle-Smith, Lorraine Duvall, Pam Gothner, Henrietta Jordan, and Deborah Mitchell.

Karen opened the meeting at 5:05 PM.

Opening Prayer: Pastor John led the group in prayer.

Approval of Last Month's Meeting: Elizabeth made a motion to approve the last month's meeting minutes, and Linda B. seconded the motion. A discussion followed, and the motion was passed.

Solar Update: Dan met with an engineer from Adirondack Solar today and will present a document to the Council with specifics to include the cost associated with the new proposal of having the solar panels installed on the garage which will need to have some reinforcements installed. A trench will need to be dug, and a maple tree removed to make progress on this project.

PASTOR'S REPORT – August 24, 2021

Worship and Spiritual Development

- Working with Nancy Emrich, Bill Serjak, Lynn DeWalt, Rob Hastings and Liz Jaques to offer summer music program. Amy Nelson confirmed when she will fill in for Lynn DeWalt.
- Will be leading worship at All Souls in St. Huberts on Sunday, August 29. Guest worship leader for KVCC will be Laurin McArthur.
- Weekly meetings with Dave Craig regarding worship on the Zoom platform. Chris Blaicher is being trained to be Dave's back-up.
- The Centering Prayer Group meets mornings at 7 AM.
- Friday morning prayer group continues to meet, sharing prayers, concerns and joys of the community. They have resumed meeting in person in the VSR.
- Neighborhood House weekly worship has been suspended due to scheduling issues. Have begun conversations with Rich R. about resuming weekly worship.
- Worship leadership at Elderwood in Lake Placid has been suspended due to the virus.
- Equinox vespers service being developed for September 22. It will be in person.

Confirmed Memorial Services and Weddings

- August 28 – Interment of Harrison Caner's ashes @ Norton Cemetery
- September 18 @ 4:30 PM - Glen Morisano and Bridget Wilcox wedding at the Ausable Club
- September 25 – Evelyn Kane memorial service
- October 2 – Brooks Townsend and Amanda Dunham wedding at the Ausable Club
- October 16 – Harrison Caner Memorial Service @ KVCC

Pastoral Support

- Provide ongoing pastoral support to the church community via Zoom, telephone, in-person meetings, and email.

Book Discussion Group

- Leading community discussion of the Gospel of Mark on Tuesday evenings

Community Support

- Working with members of the congregation on identifying neighbors in need, and supporting them through financial grants.
- Hosted group from Hamilton College 8/18 – 22.
- Working with Dre Roebuck to offer periodic TGIF social gathering at the church. First gathering held on 8/20.

Essex Association

- Black River – St. Lawrence Association (BRSL)
 - Members of the Essex Association have had preliminary discussions with the BRSL Association about merging. The discussions have been positive, and are moving forward.
- Member of the Committee on Ministry (COM)
 - Lynnette Cole ordained on August 21.

Training

- Signed up for Boundary Awareness Training on August 27.
- Sexual Harassment Prevention Training - Lynn to provide documentation that he received the training through KCS in September.

Sabbatical

- Will be on sabbatical September 2022 – mid-January 2023
- Attending Michaelmas Term at Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK

Other Items

- Actively involved in the Creation Justice Task Force, including the Advocacy Committee
- Attend Spiritual Direction sessions for the development of my own spirit.
- Agreed to serve another 3-year term on the UC NY Board of Directors

Treasurer's Report: Prior to the meeting, Jimm provided the Council with the following documents: Income Statement Budget, Weekly Giving Summary, TD Ameritrade Statement, Weekly Giving Summary, and Balance Sheet. Jim was not available for today's Council meeting, and is waiting on the reports from Teresa. Naj made

a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Linda L. seconded the motion. A discussion was made, and the motion was carried.

Committee Reports:

Buildings & Grounds Report:

IMMEDIATE NEEDS: Paint the Manse chimney before winter. Seems that there are no masons in the immediate area. Tom is waiting for Guy Smith to get back to him, or pursue finding another mason. Should cost between \$2,000 and \$3,000. Caulk the seam between the VSR chimney and the building. Cost will probably be about \$400. Install lamp at the handicapped parking area. This will probably be about \$400-500.

NEXT YEAR: Replace roof cap and repair shingles on the Manse roof. Probably about \$2,000. Spray foam the Church basement. About \$4,500. Rebuild Manse walkways. \$200 to \$1,000 depending on materials.

Tom feels that we should increase the Reserve for Major Repairs to \$20,000 and repairs and maintenance to \$10,000. We are entrusted to care for some historic and fragile buildings and it's going to cost more to handle the problems that will arise.

The Grounds committee has been increasingly satisfied with the work that East Branch Organics has done to mow the lawns each week. The recent rain was helpful in starting the grass that was sown where the water main was replaced. Pam, Erica and John met with Steve Bowers recently to review the design for a bench that will be created in-part from the cedar tree that was taken down. This will be ready by next spring and will be placed in the pollinator garden. The drawing is attached. Projects that are in the works include: Thoroughly weeding the bed on the north side of the church and adding more ferns. Getting a quote on improvement to the walkway from the back entrance toward the parking area behind the manse. Working on the pollinator garden in September. Thinning out the plantings to the left of the front door of the sanctuary. Planting lilacs in the grassy area to the left of the walkway to the Nature Conservancy (when facing the Conservancy)

Worship Committee: There is no new information from this Committee.

Mission and Social Action Committee: No new information was provided.

Flower Committee: There is no new information from this Committee.

Creation Justice Church Task Force: Tropical Storm Irene *Respect Our River* Events

The Irene Event the evening of August 18 was a great success. John Samson welcomed the 70 attendees to the church sanctuary; Lorraine Duvall gave some introductory remarks about the evening. Naj Wikoff and Katharine Preston ushered. Deb Gale greeted everyone at the door to make sure they had a mask.

Peter Slocum led the panelists through their 10 minute or so stories about the impact of Irene - Marcy Neville concentrated on Keene Valley; Marie Ann Ward on the Wells Memorial Library in Upper Jay; and Kelley Tucker on the river restoration efforts. Much of the discussion was about the community coming together.

This was a change from the original agenda, as we ran into technical problems and could not connect electronically to the church's capabilities; therefore, no Zoom or TV screen. After the panel discussion, we moved over to the Library and used the electronics in the conference room. We had two showings of the film, of about 35 attendees each, to accommodate the large crowd. The reception, sponsored by the Board of the East Branch Friends of the Arts, in the downstairs room served as a meeting place before and after the film viewing. Thanks to many for making Plan D happen – specifically Jimm Collin, Dre Roebuck, and Carol

Blakeslee Collin for setting up the view board; Pam Gothner, Barbara Merle-Smith, Dre Roebuck and Mary Janeway for the reception.

The 12-minute-20-second film, **Irene: A Look Back**, was a great success thanks to our producers Carol Blakeslee-Collin and Jimm Collin. We had many requests asking when it would be shown again, especially those who tried to access the event through Zoom. Alternative times and venues are being explored, including the Town of Keene website.

The good news is that a reporter from the local ABC Channel 22 news was at the event, recorded the panel, and interviewed participants. Katharine Preston is following up with the reporter about obtaining a copy. Reporters were also there from the Schenectady Gazette and the Adirondack Explorer.

<https://www.adirondackexplorer.org/stories/looking-back-at-irene-10-years-later>

Lorraine Duvall received a phone call from Thom Hallock from Mountain Lake PBS asking about incorporating parts of the film and panel discussions for their series on Irene. He subsequently contacted Carol Blakeslee-Collin for arrangements. Kudos to Chris Blaicher and Jimm Collin for their yeoman efforts to get us online. Annie made a motion to accept the CJC covenant statement as written. Naj seconded the motion. A discussion was made, and the motion was passed.

Re-Opening Task Force Report: John updated the council on the Re-opening Task Force. The Group continues to monitor updates to health guidance, and the state of the pandemic. Full hybrid worship has been offered since July 4. The group will be moving to a meeting schedule of every other week.

Sabbatical Task Force Report: Nothing to report on for this month's Council meeting.

2021 Church Bazaar: There will be no bazaar or gathering this year.

2021 Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting will be held on October 10th and will be in hybrid form. Items to be voted on include the CJC Covenant statement, the annual budget, and the slate of proposed officers. The council also discussed recognizing a non-member, a member, or members of the KVCC congregation who have gone above and beyond in support of our church.

2022 Council Membership: The nominating committee will be creating the proposed slate for the 2022 Council members.

Other Business:

Elizabeth made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 PM.

Next council meeting is Tuesday, **September 28, 2021** (fourth Tuesday of the month) at 5:00 PM in person at KVCC with a Zoom component.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Mitchell, Clerk