

KVCC Church Council Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2020

Present: Karen Glass, Pastor John Sampson, Linda Bogardus, Elizabeth Davidson Derr, Linda Bogardus, Susie Allen, Dre Roebuck, Annie Scavo, Elizabeth Jaques, Naj Wikoff, Chris Blaicher, Tom Both, Lorraine Duvall, Ingrid Carman, and Deborah Mitchell.

Karen opened the meeting at 5:01 PM.

Opening Prayer: Pastor John led the group in prayer.

Approval of Last Month's Meeting: The meeting minutes were reviewed from October's monthly meeting. Elizabeth made a motion to accept the meeting minutes, and Ingrid seconded the motion. The council voted to approve the minutes. The motion was carried.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor's Report – December 8, 2020

Online Updates

- All recurring weekly church gatherings and meetings have been successfully moved to Zoom. I act as host and facilitator for all meetings except Faith and Issues, and the daily Centering Prayer meetings.
 - Sunday Worship
 - Tuesday Evening Book Discussion Group
 - People of the Way Centering Prayer Group – Daily morning and evening meetings
 - Friday Prayer Group
 - Faith and Issues

Community Support

- Working with members of the congregation on identifying neighbors in need, and supporting them financially.
- Members of the town have begun reaching out to the church for help with financial need. New request to the members and friends to fund the PDF sent 12/8.

Worship and Spiritual Development

- Advent has been completed. Christmas planning is in full swing.
- Zoom sessions for Sunday worship have increased to high 50s and low 60s since the beginning of Advent.
- Zoom worship is now recorded, and a link to the recording is shared with members and friends Sunday after worship.
- Weekly meetings with Dave Craig regarding worship on the Zoom platform.
- The Centering Prayer Group now meets mornings @ 7 AM, and evenings at 5 PM, 7 days a week.
- Friday morning prayer group continues to meet in the VSR, sharing prayers, concerns and joys of the community.
- Neighborhood House weekly worship has been suspended due to scheduling issues.
- Worship leadership at Elderwood in Lake Placid has been suspended due to the virus.

- Working with a subgroup from the Worship Committee to develop a quarterly vespers service. The sequences for the Winter Solstice service have been recording. Martha Gallagher in the process of editing and composing the service.
- Calendar of all Advent, Christmas and Epiphany offerings has been posted.

Pastoral Support

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

Other Items

- Looking to create Care Circles to support members and friends during the winter months.
- Was on vacation from November 13th thru November 28th. Jenifer Deming provided pastoral support, and Susie Allen and Martha Gallagher led worship in my absence. My next vacation will be from Friday, December 25 through Saturday, January 2. Naj Wikoff will be leading worship in my absence.
- Actively involved in the Creation Justice Task Force, including the Audit Committee.
- Members of the Essex Association have had preliminary discussions with the Black River – St. Lawrence Association about merging. The discussions have been positive, and are moving forward. A meeting with the Hudson Mohawk Association will also be scheduled.
- Attend monthly Spiritual Direction sessions for the development of my own spirit.

Treasurer's Report:

Prior to the meeting, Jimm provided the Council with the following documents: Income Statement Budget, Weekly Giving Summary, TD Ameritrade Statement, and Balance Sheet. Jimm was not able to attend today's council meeting.

Committee Reports:

Buildings & Grounds: Tom said he checks up on the church a couple times a week. Tom said there was a fuse blown on the clock. The fuse was replaced. Tom suggested we have a service contract for the clock. He's been in touch with a service technician who can provide us with a service contract for \$400 which includes maintenance. We would save over \$200 per year. Another local church has been pleased with the work this technician performs. Tom recommends a professional go up to the clock once a year to inspect it. Larry concurs with Tom. The council agreed to go with Tom's recommendation. Tom also had a local electrician inspect the chandeliers. A new ground fault circuit breaker has been installed to prevent any electrical issues. Tom is proposing we add LED lights and a new switch. We could save money on our electrical bill with no change in illumination. Tom would like to go ahead with the recommendations from the electrician to make these safety changes. There are cost savings associated with using these LED lights. The council was in support of Tom's recommendations which coincides with recommendations from the Creation Justice Task Force. In addition, Tom said flashing will be added to the manse roof to prevent leaks. Work is also being done on the manse chimney. In conclusion, Tom also acknowledged all of Ingrid's efforts on the grounds crew, and she was recognized by the council. This is Ingrid last council meeting after many years of dedication to the Building and Grounds Committee.

Worship Committee: Linda B. provided an update on the continuing issues the worship committee is involved in, to include planning for advent and Christmas. The next meeting is set for January 2021.

Finance Committee: Elizabeth said the Finance Committee is still looking for a new financial advisor and is coordinating with recommendations from the Creation Justice Task Force.

Mission and Social Action Committee:

Naj reported on the Mission and Social Action Committee, citing the coordinating efforts made with the Adirondack Diversity Initiative and the UCC disaster relief efforts.

Creation Justice Church Task Force Report:

Lorraine provided the council with a written report on this committee's work. Lorraine was not able to attend today's council meeting.

An update on the Creation Justice Task Force for the December 8, 2020 Council meeting

In addition to our continuing initiatives, The CJC Task Force, through a subcommittee, is looking to develop guidelines for Creation Justice advocacy initiatives to assist ourselves and the Mission & Social Action Committee in focusing our efforts and to encourage the engagement from a wider community. We are educating ourselves and others in selected environmental and social justice advocacy initiatives.

We are surveying like-minded environmental and social justice organizations contemplating where we can bring a spiritual and faith-based dimension to their advocacy activities. We've reached out to UCC individuals for their wisdom and insights, via emails and Zoom meetings, including Brooks Brendt, the UCC's Environmental Justice Minister. We have arranged for Brooks to participate in and present the sermon at one of our Sunday Services in January or February. Specific date yet to be determined.

We reached out to UCC churches in Dartmouth NH and Irvine CA. They've been very open in sharing their experiences and resources during the process of becoming a CJC and how they are continuing to contribute to bring environmental and social justice to their communities, the country, and the world. Just yesterday, Katharine and I had a Zoom meeting with Chuck Heath who is co-chair (with his wife) of the Green Team at UCC Irvine. He moved to Irvine after they were designated a Creation Justice Church, and continues to participate in UCC initiatives, including training for the Kairos Movement. A worthwhile effort:

https://www.ucc.org/a-kairos-call-to-action?utm_campaign=the-pollinator-the-e&utm_medium=email&utm_source=unitedchurchofchrist

Acknowledging Volunteers:

Karen led an ongoing discussion about how to acknowledge and honor our KVCC volunteers. Karen has recommended we choose a theme each month and then acknowledge those volunteers who contribute. It was suggested that we recognize those involved in finances in January 2021. The council talked about who and how many individuals ought to be recognized by the church. We discussed acknowledging volunteers during Sunday service as well in the weekly newsletter. We agreed to "name names" and acknowledge them once a month during service, in the church bulletin, and in the weekly newsletter.

PDF outreach:

There are members in the community who would benefit from monetary support from the Pastor's discretionary fund. A committee of 4 volunteers met, identified people who would benefit from a gift of recognition. They pulled gifts together, baked, and made cards for those individuals. Thank you letters from were read in the meeting.

Resolution: Becoming A church of Contemplatives in Action:

Pastor John explained the process in detail to the council of the way resolutions get brought to the floor of Synod. A resolution has been brought to KVCC whether we would be supportive of becoming a Contemplative Church of Action. Susie Allen added to the discussion, explaining more about the process. The council discussed bringing this resolution to the floor of the Synod. Naj made a motion to vote to sign on to the Resolution for Contemplatives in Action to be brought to the UCC Synod in the summer of 2021. Chris seconded the motion. The council voted and the motion was passed.

Other Business:

Karen let the council know that we received a message from Mahoney Alarms that our system is working okay but we may replace a part. Tom will follow up with Mahoney Alarms on this issue.

Elizabeth made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:59 PM.

Next council meeting is Tuesday, **January 26, 2021** (fourth Tuesday of the month) at 5:00 PM via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Mitchell, Clerk