

KVCC Church Council Meeting Minutes

July 27, 2021

Present: Karen Glass, Pastor John Sampson, Elizabeth Davidson Derr, Naj Wikoff, Charlotte Lichtenberg, Linda Bogardus, Linda LaBarge, Liz Jaques, Tom Both, Dre Roebuck, Barbara Merle-Smith, Jimm Collin, Lorraine Duvall, Henrietta Jordan, and Deborah Mitchell.

Karen opened the meeting at 5:02 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 Naj seconded the motion. A discussion followed, and the motion was passed.

Solar Panel Update:

Pastor's Report – July 27, 2021

Worship and Spiritual Development

- Full hybrid worship offered beginning July 4.
- 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 to be identified.
- Weekly meetings with Dave Craig regarding worship on the Zoom platform. Chris Blaicher has volunteered to be trained to be Dave's back-up.
- 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, 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 @ Ausable Club
- September 25 - Karolina Jewett and Will Canning wedding @ Ausable Club
- October 2 – Brooks Townsend and Amanda Dunham wedding @ 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.

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)
 - Working with Lynnette Cole to plan her Ordination service. Date TBD.

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
- Actively involved in the Re-Opening Task Force
- Attend monthly Spiritual Direction sessions for the development of my own spirit.
- Agreed to serve another 3-year term on the UC NY Board of Directors
- “Contemplatives in Action” resolution passed at Synod by 93%
- Pastor’s Discretionary Funds: Pastor John reminded the council that there are funds available and individuals can contact him if they identify a need.
- Students from Hamilton College will be here doing community service from August 18th through 22nd. Deborah made a motion for the Hamilton School visit to be approved. Dre seconded the motion. A discussion was made, and the motion was passed.

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. The Council is hoping to have a better understanding on reading the monthly documents. Jimm will reach out to Fritz for help with understanding them. Jimm would like each Committee to come up with their proposed budget for the year to help Jimm complete his annual budget. Jimm addressed the extra expenses we will incur around John’s sabbatical. Elizabeth recommends we establish a new line item in our budget for future sabbaticals to help us budget this event which happens every five years. 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: Tom let the council know a cedar tree has been cut down, and a new bench will be built. There is now a light going into the basement of the manse. The GE washer/dryer combination needs repair, and after a discussion with the council those appliances will be replaced. Tom brought to our attention there are leaky seams in the building that needs repair.

Worship Committee: On July 23, the Worship Committee as a whole met for the first time since March 12, 2021. In the meantime, the church reopening sub-group, which focused on planning how to resume safe in-person worship, had taken precedence. The July 23 meeting was the committee's first to discuss the hybrid worship that the church has held since July 4.

John noted that, to make it more visible, the screen has now been mounted on the wall. A video delay will always occur, which will create a seeming disconnect between what is happening on the screen and what is happening in the sanctuary.

We discussed the children's message, which is a work in progress. For now, John, Henri, and others will rotate giving the message. Because of negative feedback, the offertory has been eliminated. When worship was only on Zoom, no offering was possible. Now, even though in-person worship has resumed, Covid concerns over multiple people's handling a plate mean that passing the plates remains undesirable. The committee discussed how we should remind and otherwise encourage people to donate to the church.

David Craig's position is paid and was budgeted for about eight hours a week. He and John have worked many, many hours on infrastructure to get the system for hybrid worship wired and working. Dave's week is about 15 hours now. Although his hours will lessen as we go forward with the set-up infrastructure, we cannot sustain the cost of a full hybrid service that allows members on Zoom to participate. This will have to be addressed. If other groups, such as Vespers or people holding a memorial service, want both Zoom and in-person services, they will have to negotiate with Dave themselves.

We also discussed Christmas, which John wants to be extra special this year, considering the rough times that we have been through. Many people will be disappointed if we decide that we are not able safely to sing. When we light our candles on Christmas Eve, possibly only Lynn will sing. John charged the committee to think of ways that we can make Advent and Christmas nourishing and a time of reconnecting with traditions.

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

Flower Committee: Charlotte purchases flowers for Christmas and Easter, and contributions from the congregation help to fund this endeavor.

Creation Justice Church Task Force: Lorraine provided the Council with the Hurricane Irene Commemoration Events agenda and flyer for distribution. She noted the latest details for the CJC Irene Events -specifically the Wednesday night August 18 event at the Church begins at 7 pm, followed by a reception at the Keene Valley library. If interested, Lorraine suggests you register for the River tour Friday, August 20 soon as they are limiting attendance to 10 people. There are already two.

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. A full hybrid worship has offered beginning July 4th. The Church building reserved by AARCH, EBFA, et al. for upcoming events. The Group will be moving to a meeting schedule of every other week.

Sabbatical Task Force Report: Earlier this month we met via Zoom with David Gaewski, our Conference Minister with some questions. He will help us find a Sabbatical Minister but we need not start looking until May of next year. The position is usually taken by retired ministers and they don't know their schedule this far in advance. The Task Force provided the Council with a sample letter they plan to send out to the congregation and friends to let them know about John's Sabbatical in general. **Questions:** When should it be sent? And in what manner: email, regular mail, community news? David gave us some guidelines on the financial requirements which have been shared with the Finance Committee as they create their budget for next year. In general, one could expect to pay a Sabbatical Minister \$800 a month plus travel if necessary.

New York UCC Annual Meeting Report: Barbara attended the Annual Meeting of the NY UCC Conference and provided the Council with a three-page report on her experience.

2021 Church Bazaar: Dre provided an update on the Church's summer event. On Saturday, August 28th from 10 AM to 4 PM, we will have a quilt and craft show as well as baked goods. Dre and Karen will ensure updates about this event will be posted in our weekly newsletter.

2022 Council Membership: John asked the council if they want to remain on the council for another year, and if so, in what capacity. The nominating committee will form in August.

Other Business: We are continuing to make process with reaching out to our congregation, and Council members have volunteered to help out with this project.

Barbara made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 PM.

Next council meeting is Tuesday, **August 24, 2021** (fourth Tuesday of the month) at 5:00 PM in person at KVCC with a Zoom component.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Mitchell, Clerk