

KVCC Church Council Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2020

Present: Karen Glass, Elizabeth Davidson-Derr, Jimm Collin, John Sampson, Linda LaBarge, Dre Roebuck, Cristopher Blaicher, Annie Scavo, Martha Gallagher, Linda Bogardus, Tom Both, Susie Allen, Ingrid Carman, Liz Jaques, Charlotte Lichtenburg, Susan Doolittle, Jenny Hoffman, and Deborah Mitchell.

Karen opened the meeting at 4:01 PM with a story. Pastor John led the group in prayer.

The meeting minutes were reviewed from last month. Elizabeth made a motion to accept the meeting minutes, and Chris seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Jenny Hoffman spoke to the council about bringing a small Pride Parade Celebration to Keene Valley. Jenny believes this would be a nice celebration for the town and our church. June is traditionally Pride month. Jenny is hoping the church would be willing to sponsor or co-sponsor this event. The council discussed sponsoring or co-sponsoring the event. Karen suggested the library co-sponsor this event with the church. We're looking at Saturday, June 13th as a possible date. A vote was called. Elizabeth made a motion to support co-sponsoring this event with the Keene Valley library. Naj seconded the motion. The motion was carried by the council.

Pastor's Report – May 19, 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.
 - Sunday Worship
 - Tuesday Evening Book Discussion Group
 - Wednesday and Friday Zoom Hang Outs
 - People of the Way Centering Prayer Group
 - Friday Prayer Group
 - Faith and Issues
- Martha G. said she would have a written overview of her role prepared ~5/19. This can be shared with those who have volunteered to become Zoom Administrators.
- I reached out to both the UCC NY Conference and Rev. Richard Hong (First Presbyterian Church of Englewood, NJ) to discuss how KVCC can develop a hybrid worship model where some of the congregation is online, and some in the sanctuary. Right now, all the models being used privilege one setting over the other.
- I spoke with Karen to begin identifying possible candidates for the paid A/V role.

Community Support

- No members of the community have yet approached me for support via the PDF.
- I confirmed with Vinny McClelland that more neighbors are using the town's food pantry. At this time the pantry is in good financial health, and does not need support from the church.

Worship and Spiritual Development

- Weekly worship continues to be offered via Zoom with an average attendance of ~70 sessions joining.

- Introduced the Centering Prayer discipline to the Fasting Group – the group has been renamed to People of the Way. Group is meeting once a week on Thursday evenings, and members have committed to an ongoing daily routine of prayer.
- Friday morning prayer group continues to meet via Zoom, sharing prayers, concerns and joys of the community.
- Neighborhood House worship is resuming on Tuesday, May 19 via Skype.
- The next Worship Committee meeting is scheduled for May 22.

Pastoral Support

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

Summer and Beyond

- I met with Nancy Emrich, Bill Serjack, and Liz Jaques on May 8 to discuss options for summer musicians. Nancy will reach out to find musicians to fill in the spots opened by other musicians canceling due to the pandemic. She will also confirm if musicians who have already confirmed can perform via Zoom.
- I met with Rob Hastings and Liz Jaques on May 14 to discuss the summer music program, and any changes/updates that are required. Additional conversation with Lynn Dewalt is needed.
- Cancellation of the annual bazaar was announced to the congregation via email on May 12.
- Most weddings and memorial services have been canceled for the summer.

Other Items

- Confirmed that Rob took the online sexual harassment prevention training class.
- Terri Morse (member of Schroon Lake Community Church and Moderator of the Essex Association), Rev. Lynnette Cole (Schroon Lake), Anne Hurd, and I attended the Black River – St. Lawrence Association's annual meeting as a way to learn more about the association in support of our discernment of whether or not our associations might merge at some point. Members of the Essex Association will meet to discuss our impressions of the meeting on May 15.
- Attended webinar entitled Returning to Church in Phases on May 13 along with other members of the church council. A recording of the webinar, and supporting documents were forwarded to the council on May 14.
- Supporting Lorraine Duvall in the launch of the Creation Justice Church initiative, including: identifying possible additional Task Force members, developing next steps, etc.
- Pastoral Relations Committee meeting scheduled for May 26.

Church Garden – Susy Doolittle described a design for the church garden. She suggested having four crab apple trees against the flagstone terrace with four evergreen scrubs in front of the trees or another option a smaller round scrub. Lastly peonies could be planted in front. This design could be created in phases. Martha made a motion to allocate \$500 funds from the building/maintenance budget to renovating the church garden. Charlotte seconded the motion. The vote was approved and passed with one abstention. The design will be planned and brought back to the council.

Treasurer's Report – Jimm provided the Council with the following documents: Profit and Loss Statement, Giving Summary, and Balance Sheet. Jimm let the council know our investments over the last month are regaining. The council discussed the Treasurer's Report and how effective PayPal has been in generating donations. Jimm and Liz will work together on generating a Sunday email reminder to donate to the church. Naj moved and Linda seconded to accept the Treasurer's report.

Buildings & Grounds – Tom heard from Hearth in regards to repairing the washing machine in the manse. Tom hopes it can be repaired rather than replaced. Tom updated the council on steps to improve the handicap parking area. The renovation would include space for one more vehicle. Repairs would be around \$1,300; there is money allocated in the budget for this. Tom is still looking someone to paint the garage, and he is waiting for a price from one possible painter. Tom also discussed illuminating the handicap parking area. Tom is going to put up a sign above the church office indicating such. Ingrid said the lawn is going to be mowed this week, and mowing will be done less frequently over the summer months than in the past.

Mission and Social Action – Naj would like to access people and resources from the Mission and Social Action Committee to help identify people who would be willing to assist with church projects. There was discussion about helping a church member who is overwhelmed with the current repair and maintenance of her house. Naj agreed to organize a group of volunteers much as the group who helped build the Habitat House on Beede Road.

Directory Update – Karen led a discussion around proceeding with the church directory (\$100 per year). Liz is supportive of having one database to access information. The directory would be a database for Liz to access, and church members can opt in or out of what information would be made public or private. Karen made a motion that the church subscribe to Instant Church Directory to be reviewed in a year. Chris seconded the motion. A discussion was made. The council voted and approved to move ahead with having an Instant Church Directory.

“Pause” – John led a discussion around the phases of re-opening the church. We are a phase 4 entity. John provided the council with a copy of the UCC COVID-19 Church Re-opening Guidelines. John would like the council to develop a step-by-step draft plan to roll out for the congregation and asked for volunteers to help with this project. Elizabeth, Susie A., John, Chris, Annie, and Karen volunteered to be a part of this new committee.

Online Worship Administrator – Martha submitted a report on what is involved in being the online worship administrator and spoke to the council about it in more detail. We need one or more people to take on this role in a paid position. Martha believes that it would take around 4 hours per week to fulfill this position. We do have a couple of people interested in taking on this position.

Other Items: Quilt Sale: The council discussed whether we would be able to have a quilt sale, given we’re not having the bazaar. We talked about ways to celebrate quilting. One suggestion is to put together photos from past bazaars for on line purchases.

Summer Music: We searching for an accompanist for Sunday morning worship. Please send interests to Lynn.

Jimm made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:49 PM.

Next meeting is Tuesday, June 23rd @ 4:00 PM via Zoom (4th Tuesday of the month)

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Mitchell