



## Board Meeting – Oct. 21, 2020

*Our mission: To be a compassionate, welcoming community that nurtures spiritual growth and practices justice.*

### Meeting Minutes

**Board:** Ann Hutton, President; Kim Reid, Vice President; Greg Turosak, Secretary; Rob Harveland, Treasurer; Dave Siljeborg, Joe Lobl, Molly Dingel, Sarah Hayes and Kathy Schwartz, Members at Large; Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, ex officio.

**Absent:** None

1. **Call to Order, Chalice Lighting and Reflection.** Ann called the meeting to order via Zoom. Greg reflected on the theme of Deep Listening and lit the chalice.
2. **Agenda.** Ann asked that an additional item be added under Old Business regarding a request by the stewardship group to meet in the building as needed to plan pledge drive for next year. Motion by Rob, second by Kathy to approve the agenda as amended. Approved.
3. **Minutes from September 2020 meeting.** Motion by Kathy, second by Joe to approve the minutes. Approved.
4. **Financial update.** Rob said that we're doing pretty well. We have about \$235,800 in liquid assets and \$61,500 in stocks. We're spending more than we're taking in, by about \$2,000 in the latest month. Attention turned to the annual auction, being held virtually this year. Dry run occurred last week, and Rob said things are looking OK. Rob said he'd be surprised if we reach our auction goal, but added that we should be close. To this point in the budget year, our income is at about 118% of plan, and expenses are at about 89% of plan. Rob said that even if we come up way short in the auction, we're still in good shape with the budget to weather the storm.
5. **Minister's Report.** Rev. Luke noted that with recent snow, his attention turned to clearing paths. With the ongoing pandemic, the question is what's worth clearing paths for and what isn't. Even with the need to hunker down, we can clear some paths safely, and that's what the church is trying to do with online meetings and some limited groups. The focus is on keeping our church open in spirit. Rev. Luke also mentioned that he'd like to invite some key staff to attend the next virtual meeting of the board, as part of the minister's report at that meeting.
6. **Old business.**
  - a. **Shared Ministry team.** Kim said the Shared Ministry Team is planning to meet next in December, after all the teams have had a chance to have their first meetings.
    - i. **Administration.** Ann asked how do we convey important information. Rev. Luke said that all the links for the various upcoming Shared Ministry teams will be online, and meetings will be automatically recorded. The website will have links to the meetings so that people can access.
    - ii. **Faith Development.** Kim said there was discussion about what an ideal Faith Development program would look like – pre-school to adult; developing a cohesive curriculum, and an adult version of coming of age.

- iii. **Social Justice.** Molly said the team has met and had a good conversation about hopes and concerns. One item is making sure that the team is connected to what the congregation is passionate about on social justice issues.
- iv. **Worship and Music.** Ann said the team met in the sanctuary, with Austin joining via Zoom. Focus was on the overarching responsibilities for worship and music. There was realization that, with the ongoing pandemic, we may be lucky to gather for next year's water service.
- v. **Congregational Life.** Joe said the team had a good meeting. It's an interesting time for congregational life, Joe said, because we're not congregating so much. Some discussion of virtual membership, virtual classes. Sarah said the online travelers sessions have been fairly well attended. Joe noted 37 Zoom screens for the last one. Sarah said there's some discussion of what Sunday volunteering would look like once we are able to open our doors again.
- vi. **Financial Stewardship.** Kathy said the team met once, and Connie took charge, and that she (Kathy) was impressed. Kathy said we should rely more on Connie to produce monthly reports that don't really need scrutiny by others. "We're not here to micro-manage everything," Kathy said. Discussion turned to Sue Nielsen's recent resignation as chair of the Endowment Committee. Sentiment was that Endowment doesn't really need its own board-appointed chair, and could function under the Financial Stewardship team. Ann suggested let's take that approach and work on bylaws changes later.
- b. **Re-gathering guidelines.** Joe noted that COVID numbers are worsening, so the thought of relaxing guidelines seems difficult. Rob turned to Barb Foss' request to have in-person meetings of the stewardship campaign team. Kim asked if reasons were given why in-person meetings were needed. Rev. Luke pointed out that most teams do not meet in person. Ann suggested that we deny and convey that we're uncomfortable with the request absent specifics about why in-person meetings are needed. Rob said he would respond to Barb and cc Rev. Luke and Ann.
- c. **Building Our Future team.** Greg recapped that a meeting had been held with a second architectural firm (Locus). This followed a meeting early in the year with the HGA architectural firm. Greg also said that the team has so far reviewed a number of properties, with visits having been made to many of them. One of the team members, George Huston, is keeping a detailed spreadsheet of information about the various properties. Rev. Luke talked about upcoming December forums, one of which would specifically address building issues. He said COVID has heightened concerns about our present building, in particular the poor ventilation system. "We are in the worst possible building to consider re-gathering."

## 7. New business.

- a. **Congregational Sponsorship of Ministerial Aspirant.** Rev. Luke explained this is Jason Sumner, who has attended a couple of board meetings. Jason needs a sponsor, and this is not a large commitment, Rev. Luke noted. Dave moves, Kathy seconds agreement to become a congregational sponsor for Janson Sumner. Approved.
- b. **Sunday readers.** Ann explained that the Worship and Music Team is trying to keep different faces of the church in the pulpit. She asked that board members consider becoming among those people who are readers during services. Being a reader could be done virtually or in the sanctuary. Board members including Kim, Greg and Joe said they'd be willing. Kim also suggested going broader than the board, seeking volunteers via the e-newsletter. Ann said that's a great suggestion.

Meeting adjourned. Next Board meeting will be Nov. 18, 2020.

Respectfully submitted, Greg Turosak, secretary