



## Board Meeting – Sept. 15, 2021

*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, Brianna Berg and Walt Rothwell, Members at Large; Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, ex officio.

1. **Call to order.** Ann called the meeting to order.
2. **Chalice Lighting & Reflection.** Ann reflected on the theme of Embracing Possibility, thanked all for offering her moral support, and lit the chalice.
3. **Motion to approve agenda and previous meeting minutes.** Walt moved, and Brianna seconded, approving the agenda and previous meeting minutes. Approved.
4. **Financial reports.** Rob said the August financial report looks good, with nothing remarkable. The board also discussed disposition of approximately \$4,000 in 2019-2020 carryover funds. Moved by Greg, seconded by Rob, to move in to the Innovation Fund. Approved.
5. **Minister's report.** Rev. Luke talked about continued uncertain times due to the COVID pandemic. He said the hope is to return to some level of in-person, in-building Sunday services on Oct. 3. An in-person memorial service for congregant Jason Hayes is next week, and a water communion Sunday service is planned for outside this coming Sunday. Rev. Luke mentioned that about 100 people attended the recent church picnic. We're holding together, he said, and moving into a new, uncertain church year with grace and love.

#### Old business

6. **RASA – Update on recent discussions.** Rev. Luke said that the Rochester Arts and Sciences Academy (RASA), a small private school, is looking to expand their classroom space. Recently, RASA people came to our building for an initial visit and looked at our classroom space. They are looking at space on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of our RE wing, with the understanding that it would be shared space. Timing would be fall of 2022. A rental agreement would still need to be worked out. How much revenue is still uncertain absent an agreement. Kim and Greg said it's good that we're considering sharing space. Kim asked about how furniture, storage and alterations would work with shared space. She said she'd be happy to help with discussions. Ann said that if this goes forward the Administration Team would look at any impacts on building costs and maintenance (water use, cleaning supplies, etc.).
7. **New Refugee Community Sponsorship.** Rev. Luke said that he, Molly, Brianna and others attended a recent informational meeting about a new refugee community sponsorship effort. It would potentially involve a small leadership team and a number of volunteers from the church. He said the effort would be mentorship/ambassadorship. Molly said volunteers would help refugees with basic navigational skills. Rev. Luke said he hoped to have an October forum on the topic.
8. **NE Property Tours.** Greg said tours of the northeast property that donors have offered the church are underway and will continue into October. The hope is to offer any interested congregant a chance to tour the property before cold weather sets in.
9. **Shared Ministry.** Kim and Greg said that the overall Shared Ministry team would meet again on Oct. 10.
  - a. **Administration.** Dave said that property issues and COVID ventilation were topics at the recent Admin Team meeting. Joe said that he and Rob took measurements in the sanctuary. One avenue being pursued is a portable HEPA-filter fan system. He said there

is a disabled exhaust fan system in the ceiling of the sanctuary and a fresh-air intake into the Commons, but the possibility of using both of these will need to be investigated more.

- b. **Congregational Life.** Joe said the team met on Sept. 2. He said it's been a busy year for the Caring Committee. 413 cards have been sent out since the first of the year, plus there have been many calls and emails. We have 12 new members in the past year. Current membership is 371; it had been up to 398, but we have been clearing our rolls of people who have been inactive for some time. The recent picnic was a success, he said, and a number of events are coming up: Holiday Bazaar, Armchair Travelers, Trunk or Treat, beer tasting, and annual Service Auction.
  - c. **Faith Development.** Kim said the team's next meeting is next week, and that Amy Nelson has done a great job with brochures.
  - d. **Financial Stewardship.** Rob said planning continues for the Service Auction, with consideration of a combination in-person/online or online only.
  - e. **Social Justice.** Molly said the team is moving forward with highlighting a group, a justice partner, every month, for the shared plate.
  - f. **Worship and Music.** Ann said the team met in late August. Current focus is on the upcoming Water Service.
10. **Re-gathering guidelines and activities.** Joe said we have a very highly vaccinated congregation, but we just want to continue to be safe and err on the side of caution. The team is looking into air filters for various areas of the building. In-person Sunday attendance will likely be limited to 60 for the time being.

#### **Other/Announcements**

11. **Meeting day and time.** Ann asked about monthly meeting time. For October, the Oct. 20 meeting will have a 6:45 p.m. check-in, with 7 p.m. meeting start.

Meeting adjourned.

**Next meeting:** Via Zoom, Wednesday, Oct. 20, 6:45 p.m. check-in and 7:00 p.m. meeting.

**Reflection theme:** Cultivating Relationship – Molly

Respectfully submitted, Greg Turosak, secretary