

**Niantic Community Church  
Quarterly Congregational Meeting Minutes**

**Hybrid Meeting on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 at about 10:45 a.m.**

**There were 52 members present in the Sanctuary, on zoom 16 members present: total members present: 68**

1. Welcome and Call to Order at 10:45 Frank Chan called the meeting to order, Quorum established
2. Note of Call: Mary Childs, NCC Clerk read the notice of call
3. Opening Prayer: Rev. Kaleigh offered a prayer
4. Approval of the quarterly Congregational meeting minutes, held on 7/16/2023: Motion made by Georgie Granger, Jeannette Woodworth seconded the motion. No discussion or questions raised. Motion passed by voice vote unanimously.
5. Governing Board's Report: President Frank Chan shared an update for health status and reminded congregants to be mindful and careful. Average attendance has been about 118 for September and was 100 for August. Looking for a few members to come forward and volunteer for open Governing Board positions, both with chair and associate leader positions available as well as President and Vice President. Comment from Jeannette Woodworth: She was asked two weeks ago to become ministry team leader for JEF, and she accepted. Rev. Erica Avena will join us as an interim pastor when Pastor Eric departs.
6. Reports to inform the Congregation.
  - a. Financial Reports – information only (Treasurer) Liz Buhler shared our current financial status and reported that we should come in very close to our pledge amounts. While it looks as if we are behind for income, we still have the Jack Frost Bazaar in November which is our biggest fundraiser for the year. Loose offerings are well behind. Expenses appear to be on track for utilities, outreach is on track, administration is over and this is in part due to a payment for insurance, increase in web based subscriptions, and Sexton supplies. Payroll will end the year a little under budget. We will not need to dip into the \$34,000 we thought we would pull from reserves. No questions from the congregation at this time.

- b. Stewardship Campaign Update: Georgie Granger reported that we need pledges and that we are one fifth of the way to our goal. Twenty-Six pledges have been turned in so far with a pledge amount of \$106K. Members are encouraged to put in a pledge so that Finance can appropriately plan our 2024 budget. These will be dedicated in early November.
  
- c. Ministry Team Report – Justice, Education, and Fellowship: Kathy Leindecker shared an update from JEF. Please feel free to join in any of the events and activities that are planned. Open, Affirming and Reconciling is chaired by Margaret Holmberg, Christian Education is chaired by Brooke Stutzman, Parish Life Ministry is chaired by Jeannette Woodworth and Joanne Moore, United Action is chaired by Ocean Pellett, Faith in Action is chaired by Nancy Hunt, Prayer Shawl Ministry is chaired by Nancy Hunt and Jane Barth, Faith Formation Coordinator Staff is Marsha Swan. Look for upcoming events on Facebook, Wednesday Note, Sunday morning announcements, and via the Tidings. Contact our Church office staff: Theresa Cleary, email: [Theresa@nianticcommunitychurch.org](mailto:Theresa@nianticcommunitychurch.org) to be added to our email list. You are welcome to join any and all of the meetings with the groups listed above.
  
- d. Ministry Team Report – Operations Team leader Terri McTigue gave an overview: Children Center Associate Linda Helvig shared an update from this educational center, which is both State and Nationally accredited with last year's score being a 9 out of 10 nationally. Hired three new teachers and looking for a floater teacher. Jen Datum shared an update from the Communications Team. The team uses Facebook, website, videos on YouTube, Tidings newsletter, weekly Wednesday email note, and communicating with each other. Please make sure the office has your current contact information. Take photos, create videos, post to social media, design flyers, write press releases and Tidings articles, assist with church signage. Nan Rigdon shared an update from Music Worship Arts. Dance, Bell, Men's choirs, organist and choir directors. This team works on performing as well as keeping instruments tuned and ready, hymnals and music library updated, and other music properties of the church. The team is working to organize concerts, raise funds, and assistance is needed for grant writing. Carolyn Lombardo gave an update from the Worship Team, which is considered the housekeeping of the sanctuary and aims to keep things flowing smoothly. This team helps with Communion, Baptisms, Ushers, and Greeters. This group decorates the sanctuary for the holidays as well as changing of the banners.

Keeping the pews stocked with pencils, prayer cards, clear of clutter.  
Operations team has something to do every week to enable Sunday service.

- e. Status update on settled pastor search: Leyna Rasmussen shared an update via Zoom. Team was composed of three UCC, three NCC, and three UMC members. Five phases for the UCC search and call process. We are currently in phases two and three. Phase two includes writing a Church profile utilizing the 100+ survey results from the congregation. (\$500 will be donated to DINE because we met our challenge threshold for survey participation). Two sections still need to be completed for this profile: Summary Ministry Description and Reference Letters. Questions raised in the survey led to some consensus and some areas with a broad range with little consensus. Met with regional Conference Minister Rev. Isaac Lawson. Currently the team is working through finalizing the profile. Phase three is submitting the profile and to begin receiving candidate profiles to then decide which candidates to interview.

## 7. Business

- a. Define Congregational Goals for 2024: Start planning to develop a Mission and Vision statement as well as the 2024 Goals. In regard to the five goals we set up in 2022, we have accomplished much of what we set out to do, thanks to the collective efforts, faith and trust of the Congregation. This work will be informed by the Church Profile, survey, and our offsite recommendations.
  - b. Develop Vision and Mission Statements: members will be asked to join a Task Force to further this work.
8. Voices of the Congregation: Frank Chan asked the members present for any concerns or questions, none were offered nor raised.
  9. Benediction offered by Student Pastor, Jeff Birch
  10. Adjournment Motion made by Verna Swan and seconded by Peter Crizer, no one present opposed. Meeting adjourned at 11:57 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Childs, NCC Clerk

Next Congregational Meeting is the Annual Meeting, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024