

Governing Board Meeting Minutes – 2/26/2024

Governing Board Members Present: Carol Donovan, Nancy Hunt, Pastor Erica Avena, Pastor Kaleigh Rasmussen, Terri McTigue, Gail SanJuan, Craig Wood., Hal Robb., Judy DeVey, Jeannette Woodworth

Also present: Kathy Kern, Mary Mirecki, Sue Smith, Pete Heaney, Edie Watrous, Marion McKenzie and Marsha Swan

The meeting began at 7:00 with Joys and Concerns. Prayers were offered for Pastor Kaleigh's grandmother who is seriously ill from a stroke; Sue Smith's friend, who lost her son in an accident; for Jane Barth who has had a respiratory illness, and for Jane DeGraff, whose husband is under hospice care.

Carol opened with a reading from Molly Baskette and Corinthians. A sign-up sheet for GB meeting devotions was circulated.

Governing Board meeting minutes for January were unanimously approved.

President's Report –

NCC had a successful Red Cross Blood Drive, and will host the next one in April. Soup and Soul held their first discussion on February 21; all are invited to attend. Carol shared an updated Worship Attendance graph.

Pastors' reports –

Pastor Erica shared that the theme for Lent will be Covenant, i.e. with the land, water, stone, hope, etc. A listing of Holy Week activities and services was passed out to everyone. In the interest of "crowd control", there will be three Easter Sunday services: 6:00 a.m. (Sunrise service at McCooks Park), 9:00 a.m., and 11:00 a.m. One coffee hour between 9 and 11. This information will be published in The Day newspaper, Tidings, social media, and bulletin announcements.

There will be no open mic announcements at the beginning of worship during Lent. Please submit any announcements to the Pastors/Theresa, to be reviewed and shared in the bulletin or on screen. Pastor Erica will be gone March 3 – 6.

Pastor Kaleigh shared that Pastoral Care is being offered by all means: emails, texts, telephone, in-person. Pastor Kaleigh will be conducting the Maundy Thursday service and will represent NCC at the Sunrise Service. Marsha Swan, Pastor Erica, and Pastor Kaleigh have all been working successfully with our four confirmands. The pastors met with our UMC District Superintendent, Wanda Santos-Perez, regarding our responsibilities. She has committed to attending our 2025 Annual Meeting. Pastor Kaleigh will be the delegate to the Conference in April.

Treasurer's Report

Gail SanJuan referred to Liz Buhler's financial report, which everyone had received. The motion to approve was carried.

Ministry Team Reports

Financial Ministry - Gail informed the Board that the current goal is to keep one month's worth of bills in a reserve fund. A CD for \$60,000 was purchased with a 5% rate. There will be five fund-raising events for 2024: one from the Childrens' Center, three summer suppers, and the Jack Frost Bazaar. Two adhoc committees are being considered; one for developing fund-raising events, and one to explore cost-saving possibilities for NCC.

Operations –

Terri spoke on behalf of Linda Helvig for the Childrens' Center. A thank you is extended to Craig Woody and Marsha Swan for the new sink (a treasure found at Restore!). Mary Brailey is retiring from the Childrens' Center Board, so a replacement is needed. Communications is seeking someone to assist Jen Datum, Hal Robb and Theresa Cleary with the Web Site. Jen is putting together a plan to upgrade REALM to the next level - \$1500 will be needed for this process. Mens' choir added two new members, Rich Thomson and Bob Rugg. New members are always welcome to any of NCC's choirs. Easter planning is in the works. Verna Swan decorated the Narthex for Black History Month. Ellen Albutin suggested a donation basket at Coffee Hour to help defray costs, but the consensus is that it is not necessary at this time.

Legacy

Hal Robb informed us the NCC Endowment funds are currently invested with the Missionary Society of Connecticut Consolidated Trust Fund in keeping with the Charter requirements. In mid-April, the Consolidated Trust Fund will cease operation. The NCC funds, along with Connecticut Conference funds will be automatically transferred to the United Church Funds. The Endowment Charter states:

Article Four -- Change in Investment Policy

Any transfer of Fund assets for investment with an investment firm or vehicle other than the Missionary Society of Connecticut Consolidated Trust Fund and/or The United Methodist Foundation of New England Collective Investment Fund **or its successors** must be approved by a two-thirds vote of a membership meeting of the Niantic Community Church, Inc. upon recommendation of the Endowment Fund Committee/Legacy Ministry Team and the Governing Board.

Legacy considers the transfer of assets from the Consolidated Trust Fund to the United Church Funds to be a 'successor' transfer and does not require congregation approval. There will be an informational Zoom meeting regarding the transfer on March 5th. During Rich Thomson's carpentry work on the Narthex, the Memorial cabinet was discovered in the Bride's Room containing a book recording memorial donations through 2005. Edna Gilstad has information since then. Question as what do to with the cabinet? Also, Memorial Garden Guest book? Locate where? It was noted that the Brides' Room is rarely used anymore, perhaps there is space there to mount the cabinet.

Justice, Education and Fellowship

Jeannette Woodworth reviewed JEF's report. The team met on 2/20.

CE - Sunday School continues to grow in numbers. The cupcake sale was a great success, no surprise there. Club 2-6 is collecting sandwich fillings (peanut butter, jelly and Fluff) to donate to DiNE and the HCC. Karen Fox leads the Drum Circle on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month. She would like to set up at McCook's Park during the Flower Moon; this will need to be approved by the town. Joanne Moore will be offering instruction on use of the Labryinth prior to the drumming. Pete Haney is up and running on Faith in Action. He has developed a special events calendar and completed on a new bulletin board in the Dining Hall with help from Linda Helvig. He has also approached several local grocery stores for gift card donations. OAR has programs and speakers scheduled through the end of summer 2024. No details were provided. Soup n Soul – 24 enthusiastic participants attended the first session February 21st. Starting next week, the program will also be available on Zoom. Contact Theresa before 3:00 p.m. same day. Rummage Sale scheduled For April 27th. Prayer Shawl – 8 attendees last month. Supply of knitted hats and scarves donated to the HHC and DINE (over 200 pieces and counting). Ocean Pellett reported that she has attended various United Action meetings discussing affordable housing including a proposal in Hebron.

Property Management/Technology –

Craig Woody reported that LedgeLight has taken water samples from the Childrens' Center to check for lead levels. This should be done every 2 years. If the levels are too high, NCC and CE children should drink only bottled water. Scullery being cleaned out and organized. Please let Craig know if you or your team have anything you want stored. Suggestion to have a window in the door between the hall and sanctuary. He is checking on this with Rings' End.

The small area next to the Multi Purpose Room will be redone for use by our youth. Craig and Frank Chan applying for \$50,000 grant to upgrade security. Craig will be attending a JDL meeting to talk about anti-semitism. Craig asks that someone be at the door to let meeting members in rather than leaving unlocked and unattended.

Administration

Judy DeVey – Reported that PPRC wants to change their name to Pastor Support Team. This will be voted on at the April Quarterly Meeting.

Carol announced that Sue Smith has taken on the position of Associate Ministry Team Leader for the Legacy team, which will be voted to approve at April meeting. We still need an Associate for Property Management.

Old business

Annual meeting recap – Carol stated that the annual meeting went well.

New business

Covenant for Christian Communication – Carol asked the team leads to go over the Covenant for Christian Communications with their various teams.

Leadership Moments. Starting with Legacy in March (17th), one team per month will use a 3-minute moment before the start of service to talk about what the team does, who the members are, what the needs are, etc. Property will take April on a date to be determined.

Gift Acceptance Policy. Hal presented the history of and revisions to the Gift Acceptance Policy. Who decides where the gift goes if not specified by the donor? From Ted Montgomery to the President to the Governing Board to decide? Motion to approve the revisions to the Gift Acceptance policy was approved by a voice vote.

Carol asked the Governing Board members to start thinking about 2024 goals including Mission and Vision Statements. Possibility of a follow-up retreat to use the information gathered last spring and move forward. This would be scheduled before the summer.

Voice of the Congregation_

Mary Marecki noted that she, Toni (filling in) and Richard will be providing the Easter music. Mary also requests to be part of the retreat.

Marion McKenzie confirmed the Drum Circle schedule as above.

Sue Smith – asked if we acknowledge gift donations through a formal letter. Yes there is a process for this. She also asked if a New Members class is being scheduled. Pastor Erica stated they are looking at dates in April. Theresa checks the Red Pads after services and sends out cards/welcome notes to visitors

Marsha Swan – Sunday School is growing! She asked for Summer Supper Dates (July 9th, 23rd, August 6th) so she can plan for the Stock dinner

for youth to report on their mission trip. Stock sales are planned for April 28th and May 5th. She will coordinate with Pete Heaney and Faith in Action..

Pete Heaney – requested a copy of the church calendar at GB meetings.

The Coffee Hour Monthly Assignment list for 2024 was circulated.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hunt, Vice President
Acting Clerk
2/28/2024

