

Niantic Community Church Governing Board Minutes
22 January 2024, 7:00 pm (In-Person)

Governing Board Members present: Frank Chan, Peg Herzberg, Liz Buhler, Gail San Juan, Terri McTigue, Craig Woody, Pastor Erica Avena, Kathy Leindecker, Judy DeVey, Ellen Ashburn (representing Legacy Team), and Mary Childs.

Also present: Nancy Hunt, Frank Mirecki, Jeff Birch, Mary Mirecki, Edie Watrous, Georgie Granger, Roe Granger, Juanita Durham, Carol Donovan, Marion Mackenzie, Jeannette Woodworth, Marsha Swan, and Sue Smith.

1. Call to Order: Frank Chan, President called the meeting to order at 7:00pm
2. Joys and Concerns, Opening Prayer, Peg Herzberg, Vice President, shared an opening prayer with joys and concerns raised by those present. Thank you to Carol Donovan and Nancy Hunt.
3. Approval of the December 18, 2023 Governing Board meeting minutes: Motion made by Judy DeVey, seconded by Craig Woody to accept the minutes.

Discussion regarding corrections: under resources should read "Robin and Liz" as opposed to "Theresa", correction to use the term "Safe Conduct" instead of "Church".

Motion to accept the December minutes as amended, passed by voice vote.

4. Officers' Reports

a. President's Report: Frank Chan's report included a COVID update and the trend for cases and hospitalizations is declining, Annual Meeting next week, first of 6 Blood Drives is planned for 2/16/24, a look at attendance shows an upward trend when comparing a year's worth of monthly averages.

b. Pastor Erica's and Pastor Kaleigh's Reports: Pastor Erica shared Pastor Kaleigh's report with an update regarding Wednesday sessions with York Prison, 2024 confirmation class has four students. She expressed gratitude for the dinners provided by Church members.

Pastor Erica reported that she has met with the Search Committee and has offered feedback for interviews and process. Weekly staff meetings are occurring. The Pastor Parish Relations Committee (PPRC) met last week and will plan to meet regularly. Pastor Erica was interviewed for the local cable access channel for a segment called "Stories Worth Telling". During Lent a series utilizing the book "Between the Listening and the Telling: How Stories Can Save Us" by Mark Yaconelli and Anne Lamott. Copies will be available to purchase from the Church office. During Lent the theme of Covenant - all of the covenants will be explored.

c. Treasurer's December Monthly Report: Liz Buhler shared the current Treasurer's report (see report), with both revenue and expense details were highlighted. The 2023 budget did include utilizing reserves and we ended up using less of the reserves than we

budgeted for.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's report made by Peg Herzberg and seconded by Gail San Juan. There were no questions. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

5. Ministry Teams' Reports:

Justice, Education, and Fellowship: Kathy Leindecker shared that movie night went well and the next one is in February at the All Souls Church in New London. It should be the third Saturday of the month. Joanne Moore as a part of the Women League of Voters would like the opportunity to share updates periodically regarding legislative sessions with a focus on justice possibly via the Wednesday Note. Frank shared his research and details regarding this matter – he deemed it to be appropriate based on the First Amendment of U.S. Constitution, IRS code on tax-exempt organizations' advocacy activities, and is consistent with the Biblical teaching. Christian Education reports that the new furniture is well received. The youth attending the mission trip will again offer cupcakes. A pancake breakfast will potentially occur on Easter Sunday.

Operations: Terri McTigue reported that there is an active search for an organist and that the bells performed in the holiday stroll. Mary Brailey has resigned her position as the chair on the NCCCC Board.

Property Maintenance and Technology: Craig Woody reported that there are five areas he is currently focused on. Personal safety on Church grounds, building security: **be vigilant and check doors when you leave**, consolidating and cleaning up extra bins (especially the ones without lids), removal/replacement for the rug in the multipurpose room, and the outdoor lighting between the Narthex doors to the street and on our sign. He offered a reminder that anything put in the storeroom needs to have a label on it regarding who it belongs to.

6. Current Business Items

a. 2024 Church Budget: This draft budget must be forwarded to the Congregation for review and approval at the Annual Meeting.

Motion made by Craig Woody and seconded by Terri McTigue to send this draft budget to the Congregation.

Liz Buhler reviewed the draft budget and explained the current incomes and expense items, while utilizing \$37,614 of the reserves to balance the budget. It was requested that the pie charts be included in the slides. They will not be a part of the paper version as we are only printing in black and white. We are currently writing a grant application to secure funding towards security upgrades.

Motion to forward the proposed 2024 budget to the Congregation. Motion carried by voice vote.

b. Slate of Officers and Ministry Team leaders: Frank Chan shared that the slate of Governing Board members for the 2024 term:

Officers:

- **President:** Carol Donovan
- **Vice President:** Nancy Hunt
- **Treasurer:** Liz Buhler
- **Clerk:** Mary Childs

Ministry Team Leaders:

- **Administration:** Judy DeVey with Cherri Meier as Associate Leader,
- **Operations:** Terri McTigue with Linda Helvig as Associate Leader,
- **Justice, Education, and Fellowship:** Jeannette Woodworth with a **vacant** Associate Leader position,
- **Property Management and Technology:** Craig Woody with a **vacant** Associate Leader position,
- **Financial Resources:** Gail SanJuan, with a **vacant** Associate Leader position,
- **Church Legacy:** Hal Robb with a **vacant** Associate Leader position

Discussion regarding the role of an Associate Leader: to support and coordinate efforts on the team and across teams. When the team leader is absent, the associate will act for the team and have a vote at the Governing Board meetings.

7. New Business Items: none raised

8. Voices of the Congregation: the following members shared comments: Mary Mirecki, Sue Smith, Juanita Durham, Georgie Granger, Terri McTigue, Nancy Hunt, Jeannette Woodworth

9. Adjournment: Motion made by Peg Herzberg and seconded by Craig Woody to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous decision.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm

Annual Congregational Meeting – Sunday, January 28th, 2024

Governing Board Meeting – Monday, February 19th, 2024 (Tentative date, actual date/time/location to be determined by the 2024 Governing Board)

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Childs