

**Niantic Community Church Governing Board Minutes**

**26 JUNE 2023, 7:00 pm (In-Person)**

**Governing Board Members present:** Peg Herzberg, Liz Buhler, Mary Childs, Hal Robb, Craig Woody, Gail San Juan, Terri McTigue, Kathy Leindecker, Cheri Meier, Jen Datum

**Staff Member present:** Eric Elnes

1. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Vice President, Peg Herzberg and quorum was established.

2. Joys and Concerns, Opening Prayer: Liz Buhler offered a devotional and opening prayer. Kathy Leindecker offered to lead the devotional and opening prayer for our next GB meeting.

3. Approval of the 22 May 2023 Governing Board meeting minutes: Motion made by Kathy Leindecker, seconded by Craig Woody, no discussion or corrections, motion carried.

4. Officers' Reports

a. President's Report: See report: NCC welcomed 5 new members, COVID update, successful rummage sale, commissioned the Pastoral Search Committee, successful bake sale, held a congregational meeting to discuss and determine calling a UCC pastor. Be sure to check our website, Facebook, Tidings, as well as the weekly email for updates. If you have recommendations for a good way to get information to someone, please let us know. Flag raising event at noon on July 1st, the summer suppers will need volunteers and advertising.

b. Pastor's Report: Pastor Eric said that the search committee will be sharing a survey with the congregation to help with the pastoral search. Everyone is encouraged to share input. The pilgrimage to Israel and possibly Egypt will most likely take place in January. In the fall Pastor Eric will hold a series on the Beatitudes from multi-faith perspectives.

c. Treasurer's May Monthly Report: Liz Buhler shared the monthly financial update through the end of May. For income, we are \$5,000 ahead, for expenses we are over, but we will be about even when the payroll taxes are reimbursed. Our electricity bill is still high and being vigilant will be important. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report made by Craig Woody, seconded by Hal Robb, motion carried.

5. Ministry Teams' Reports:

Operations Team: Terri McTigue reported that NCCCC is able to offer summer school this year, communications are well underway, the Children's Choir is recruiting for the fall and would like to plan a community event. Worship team is noticing an increased use of the red Friendship Pads. There is a question regarding the possibility of creating a

## Approved by the Governing Board on 18 September 2023

contact list for the various teams. Use of Realm will be explored. Worship team would like to see the cross displayed on the altar as the large cross above the choir loft is not always visible, Governing Board members agreed.

Finance Team: Gail San Juan reported that the Stewardship team will begin earlier this year based on recommendations from the Off Site discussion. Will possibly use a year round Stewardship in line with the model Ron Johnson utilizes for Outreach. The Finance Team has approved being a fiscal agent for Pastor Eric Elnes' nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, Eden Tree Foundation, which is working to develop spiritual growth through technology as well as interfaith connections.

Justice, Education, and Fellowship Team: Kathy Leindecker reported that Christian Education approved extending contracts for Marsha Swan and Christy Pyatt to continue their work with the youth. Team is discussing ideas for filling this role in January. There is good staffing for the summer one room schoolhouse and nursery care. Linda Helvig has been working on cleaning the storeroom. \$1,000 was raised during Blanket Sunday and about \$700 for Tools for Hope. The team is currently looking for someone to possibly chair OAR and help coordinate the LGBTQIA Pride Fest at Ocean Beach. Pastor Eric will lead the LGBTQIA 103 session on 7/23/23.

Property, Maintenance, and Technology Team: Craig Woody reported that the portico edging has been replaced, AC units have clear ventilation as plants have been removed. A delivery of 98 LED light bulbs has been arranged as well as planning for the installment.

Legacy Team: Hal Robb reported that the 70th Anniversary event had a great turnout and it was a great time for the community. He presented and shared the history of a set of sign plates that were often present during coffee hour. Each team serving coffee would display their name as a way of presenting who they are to the congregation.

Administration Team: Cheri Meier reported that Safe Conduct was working diligently to obtain background checks for all volunteers and staff working with children.

### 6. Current Business Items

a. Approval of Narthex Mezzanine Floor Reinforcement Proposal. Motion made by Craig Woody and seconded by Kathy Leindecker. Discussion regarding floor, railing, and need to remove the projector for possibly a week. The various railing options were briefly discussed but not decided upon. Vote passed by show of hands: 9-0

b. Coffee hour schedule: JUL 2023 – Operations, AUG 2023 JEF, SEPT 3: Finance, SEPT 10 or 17 Christian Education, SEPT 10 or 17 Officers, SEPT 24 Legacy, OCT 2023 – Administration

c. Moving forward with offsite recommendations. Discussion regarding what teams are

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able to address such as Stewardship starting early. Clerk will resend the Off Site Preliminary Recommendations to the Governing Board members. Team leaders are asked to share with their respective groups and discuss prioritization of ideas. The Governing Board will discuss the Off Site Preliminary Recommendations and priorities at the 7/17/23 meeting. Eric Elnes reported that he and Jeff Birch will resume conversations upon Jeff's return, regarding possible Church restructuring.

### 7. New Business Items

- a. Financial Resources Ministry Team has agreed to serve as Fiscal Agent for Eden Tree Foundation (Founded by Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes). Description of the foundation as well as NCC's role as a Fiscal Sponsor.
- b. Quarterly Congregational Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Two Ministry Teams will present their statuses: Property, Maintenance, and Technology and Finance. Members discussed the need to update the congregation on the search process, possibly Stewardship update, as well as give an update on the Narthex reinforcement project.
- c. Do we need a Governing Board meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023? Members discussed the need to revisit and prioritize the Off Site preliminary recommendations. This would be in place of a regular Governing Board meeting.

8. Voices of the Congregation: Sue Smith, Mary Mirecki, Kathy Leindecker, Marsha Swan, Jen Datum, Eric Elnes, Peg Herzberg, Liz Buhler, and Frank Mirecki all shared comments and input.

9. Adjournment: Motion made by Jen Datum, seconded by Cherri Meier. Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm

Next Governing Board Meeting – Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup> 2023 (for the purpose of reviewing off site recommendations)

Respectfully submitted by Mary Childs, NCC Clerk