

Church Board Agenda November 17, 7 PM

Attendance: Cora, Jan, Meighan, Consi, Louise, John D., Patsy

Financial report (Patsy): We are one third of the way through the year. Expenses are less than \$2,000 more than income for the month and just over \$6,000 more than income for the year. Pledges are at budget, and facility use donations are well ahead of budget. The PPP loan money has not yet been added into the budget accounting, so we're doing fine in terms of cash flow

The PPP loan forgiveness application has been submitted to Umpqua Bank.

Sabbatical Planning (Meighan): We don't really have a budget for the sabbatical yet. It starts 7/1/2121, and we didn't get the grant we'd requested. There is a \$1500 line item in the budget for a fundraiser. If we raise more than \$1500, we can use the excess for the sabbatical. The pandemic and the loss of the grant are requiring Meighan to rethink her plans. She is proposing a Pastoral Care team, and we've received a note from Amara Oden (who has preached at Prospect) proposing that she fill in as our sabbatical pastor, and asking about possibilities. We thought we could have her do 10 of the 13 Sundays Meighan will be gone, fill in with preachers from Prospect, ask W&M to participate more in planning services, get creative about other ways of worship.

Online Auction for Church Fundraiser (Cora): (Planned for March.) Jan and Cora will try to recruit others to form an Auction planning team. Proceeds will go toward general operating budget (\$1500), and anything beyond that amount can go towards sabbatical expenses. Cora learned that St. Paul UCC had a VERY successful online auction (\$37,000) as a great example of what's possible. We're beginning to ask members and others about donating experiences. Jan will ask St. Paul's about how well their live auction functioned, given the lag time in Zoom. John proposes that we let people know what we plan to do with the money, and how much we hope to raise.

Gratitude and Generosity Team report (Cora/Meighan): We're having a monthly "Gratitude" moment done by members. We've had several already, and have participants lined up through January. Guest speaker, Jan Wood, will guide us through brainstorming and discussing visions and ideas about gratitude and generosity later this season.

Pastor and Staff Evaluations (Cora): Cora tweaked the wording of the evaluation a little. This evaluation will take place toward the end of the fiscal year (April?) with Meighan, Karen, and Kia given them earlier. We tabled this discussion (of a final version and implementation), until April.

Working Covenant revision (Cora): Cora initiated this process over a month ago, as it has been 15 years since its last revision and Karen noticed there was no language about race. The covenant was presented to the congregation during a worship service in Sept for comment. Suggestions were made to make it sound more welcoming to outsiders, include race and different economic levels. The congregation was invited to continue giving input to Cora in weekly church emails, and Meighan and Cora then met to wordsmith. That version (#2) was presented to the congregation for a vote on October 25. There was so much discussion and further suggestions that no vote was taken. Cora sent version #3 (based on input from the meeting) to the 20 people who were at the meeting. The congregation was again invited to give Cora input by email. Based on this input, Cora presented version #4, which changed the document as little as possible but included the changes most people wanted. She proposes that it should be

presented to the congregation for an up/down vote with no further discussion. Meighan and Cora will work on setting a good date (after Advent/Christmas) for the voting meeting.

SEJT (Social and Environmental Justice Team) (Meighan): SEJT allocates funds for specific causes/organizations each fall. This was done at the last meeting. We are still providing funds to PEP this year, to help with moving-out costs and as a gesture of goodwill, as well as 11 other organizations, for a total of \$9,000.

Reaching Out to Our Community (John): John followed up with contacting members who have not been showing up for ZOOM church. Some are still not comfortable with Zoom technology. Some have come to church using provided technologies. Cora and Pam created Advent bags for all members and friends, including a note from Meighan, an Advent devotional booklet, a candle, and other small items, and personally delivered them to homes.

We will have a Black Friday meeting on Zoom, to eat leftovers and play a game online, just for the pleasure of seeing each other.

Trustees report (John):

1. Awning in front of church has been installed
2. Trustees have signed agreement to extend Eritrean Church lease for three months beginning 11/22
3. New furnace air filters, meeting COVID guidelines, have been installed in church, with tests showing that our furnace fans can move air properly with them in our duct system
4. Volunteers have been identified to begin restoration of third floor offices vacated by preschool. This should begin shortly.
5. ECEAP will remove much of what remains in classroom and PEP volunteers have been identified to remove remaining materials and give them to Goodwill. Preschool has given their bus to Tony, the former Preschool bus driver.
6. Trustees have modified elevators to again require key for operation, and future use of elevators will be restricted until church prepares to resume building use for its own worship services.

Pastor's report: Cora asked us to add a "Pastor Support" line item to CB agenda, to check in with Meighan regularly.

- Worship and Music: How does this time present opportunities? Geographically distant members can participate. Holidays will be very different. We may do a slideshow of nativity art on Xmas Eve.
- "Inflection Point": How do we hang on to the advantages of Zoom worship, when we can meet in person again? What will we need to adjust—PPE, thermometers, recording equipment, combination of live and filmed/recorded materials—competition with other churches doing the same thing. How can we plan ahead and pre-order these items? How can we prepare ourselves individually and as a congregation for these new ways of being church? Can we make the building available as a chapel (similar to a hospital chapel), with just a few people there, and safety measures in place?
- How are we doing? / How is Meighan doing? Meighan may take a week or two of vacation sometime soon. Construction on her house on Whidbey has moved to the framing stage.

