

Church Board Minutes, February 21, 2021

Present: Meighan, Cora, Jan, Patsy, John, Consi, Louise and Sam Rennebohm

Sam Rennebohm Ordination: Sam is seeking ordination in the UCC with the help of Prospect. He presented a draft "4 way Covenant" which will be presented to the Conference COM (Committee on Ministry). He is currently working as a psychologist at Swedish and part of the Family Medicine residency faculty. The Church Board voted to support Sam as he moves towards ordination. Excerpts from the covenant include this part of Sam's covenant to us and our covenant to him:

To Prospect Congregational, United Church of Christ in Seattle, WA:

- Membership in good standing with Prospect, including financial support for the general ministries of this church, participation in the worshiping life of the church whenever possible, and a commitment to earnest prayer for the well-being of this congregation and its ministry;
- Submission of articles for the newsletter or other publications regarding his ministry
- An annual meeting with the Church Board to support one another in mutual ministry;
- A commitment to preach at least annually at the request of the pastor
- Public recognition of membership in this Body of Christ in duties related to his ministry

Prospect Congregational United Church of Christ, as the Local Church of Membership covenants:

To Sam Rennebohm:

- Prayers for his work with the Swedish Family Medicine Residency;
- Inclusion of materials written by Sam in the congregation's newsletter and Annual Report;
- Public recognition of Sam as a Minister sent into the world on behalf of the congregation;
- An annual meeting with the Church Board or other representative to support one another in mutual ministry.

Treasurer's report: Patsy reported people are keeping up with pledges. We are ahead of budget with facility use donations, thanks to the Eritrean congregation. Year-to-date income is greater than year-to-date expenses thanks to facility use donations and the PPP loan. We have not needed to tap the Osgood fund yet for this fiscal year. Kia is paid for 10 months of the year but has worked every Sunday in the past year. Patsy asked for us to approve paying Kia \$1766 extra to cover the extra months she worked. This was approved with the understanding that the Worship and Music team will continue to work on getting a substitute for Kia and Jerry so they can have time off.

Church policy for campers on church property: We continue to have people experiencing homelessness sleeping on our front porch. Cora had talked to Dwight Jackson, a "systems navigator" with City of Seattle human services. He suggested calling him directly so the city can send someone out to connect the homeless person with services and shelter. Jan and Cora will work on specific wording of a policy.

Request to rent space: They had contacted the church asking for a tour with consideration of renting our church for their school in the fall. We deferred a response until at least April 1 after the church has gone through a discernment process about next steps with our church and building.

Trustees report:

1. Insurance – after making a large reduction in last year's premium, the Insurance Board raised our premium for this year by 31%. Trustees will consider going out for another bid.
2. Eritrean Church is signed up for extension of lease through mid-May.
3. Massive sink waste pipe clogging has been repaired by Roy, who removed several feet of old iron pipe and replaced with slightly larger PVC. Some sections of old pipe were fully blocked by old coffee grounds.

Jerry is working on figuring out what technology is needed to form a "hybrid" worship experience once we meet back in person (this Fall?) so members and friends joining us now for worship can continue to be part of our community.

Pastor's report:

Jan Wood gave a sermon today titled; "What's that in Your Hand?" Members are invited to sign up for small groups within the next 2 weeks to share stories answering the question; "When you think about spreading God's love in the world, how do you naturally respond?" Members of Gratitude and Generosity will act as "scribes" collecting responses. CB and SEJT will tally responses, using the info to help guide our future mission.

The Sabbatical planning team is working on details of an agreement with Amara Oden who will act as a substitute pastor during Meighan's sabbatical. She will provide pulpit supply and attend church board and some team meetings. Due to COVID, Meighan is not sure yet what types of farm education programs will be available for her to attend.