

## **Church Board Minutes July 19, 2020**

**Present:** Pastor Meighan Pritchard, Moderator Jan Kinney, Co-moderator Cora Trujillo, Treasurer Patsy Severson, Co-chair of Trustees John Daugherty, Louise Morehead.

We opened lifting up members of the congregation in need of **prayer**.

**Pre-School Update:** Meighan reached out to Donna Gunna about scheduling a meeting with the Prospect CB and Donna and the Preschool Board but she has not heard back. Meighan will contact her again and let her know the Preschool can have up to December 31 as requested to be out of our building. We also want to ask her how Prospect CB and church community can help with the transition and if we can have some kind of celebration recognizing there is loss and grieving too.

**Budget Report:** (Patsy). Our pledges for last fiscal year (ending June 30) were @ \$10,000 over budget thanks to generous members responding to the drop in building use income due to COVID-19. The government PPE (Paycheck Protection Program) loan is being used to cover about two and a half months of payroll allocated between last fiscal year and this fiscal year, which helped us balance our budget, \$11,000 of which will be used for this fiscal year (July 2020 through June 2021). We currently have a \$1700 surplus for this year. Last year we budgeted \$24,000 for building use income but this year we budgeted \$6,000. An anonymous donor made a gift of \$5,000 to be used to replace the front porch awning (or as desired). The CB agreed the Trustees can decide how to distribute the funds.

**Church SMART goals** for this year: (Jan Kinney and Meighan Pritchard)

SMART: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-based

List possible resources and some target deadlines.

### **1. Engage in anti-racism work**

- Educate ourselves
- Read Robin DiAngelo's book White Fragility and discuss in 6-7 weekly Zoom sessions on Tuesdays at 5pm starting July 14.
- Review UCC's "White Privilege: Let's Talk" curriculum. Hold this class again?
- Assemble list of resources for people to read or participate in.
- Partner with outside organizations to take action
- Stand on the corner of 19th and Aloha with "Black Lives Matter" signs and the church banner for one hour in June on BLM General Strike Friday.
- March in BLM protest marches. Have participating members report back in worship.
- By July 26, check out websites for First AME Church, Mt. Zion, and Plymouth UCC to see what they are doing on racism issues. Is there any opportunity to partner?
- Sign letter and partner with churches in South Seattle and the Church Council of Greater Seattle working on low-income housing projects. [Time frame, specific goals?]
- Invite a speaker from Black Lives Matter Seattle-King County [to preach? To speak on a weekday? Time frame?]

- Join with the Poor People's Campaign to work for justice for low-income People of Color
- Check in with Curry Temple.

Resources:

Church Council of Greater Seattle

UCC curriculum on White privilege

Robin DiAngelo, White Fragility

Other books on racism by, e.g., Ta Nehisi Coates, Ijeoma Oluo, Ibram Kendi

Black Lives Matter Seattle-King County

Poor People's Campaign

## **2. Sabbatical**

The sabbatical team has made great plans for the sabbatical period, July 1 – September 30, 2021.

In October 2020, we will hear whether we have been awarded a Lilly Endowment Grant to cover Meighan's sabbatical expenses. At that time, we will begin to move forward with sabbatical plans either with or without grant funding. Our ability to implement the full plans will also depend somewhat on the status of the coronavirus, which will impact our ability to gather in person and Meighan's ability to travel around the country, take classes, and work on farm churches.

With Funding:

- Sabbatical team and/or others will conduct a search and hire a sabbatical pastor, who will start the last week of June and finish the first week of October (one week of overlap with Meighan before and after sabbatical).
- Prepare activity packets for congregation, including poems, prayers, and specific ideas for connecting with nature wherever people are (urban or rural).
- Designate one volunteer to take charge of a photo exhibit. Congregants will be invited to take photos of places in nature that connect them to creation and the holy. These photos will be assembled into an exhibit along with brief statements from each photographer about the significance of that place or moment. If we are meeting in person, photos and statements can be framed and hung in the fellowship hall and also put on the website and Facebook. If we are still meeting online, the exhibit could still be on the website and Facebook.
- In spring 2021 [check dates] volunteers can create some garden space at Meighan's property, decide as a group what to grow, and then plant their crops. Meighan will tend to the garden until the start of sabbatical and during the weeks she is home during the sabbatical. Volunteers

will schedule times to stay at Meighan's house for up to one week at a time, tend the garden, and bring the harvest to church to share with all.

- In October 2021, there will be a reunion dinner gathering featuring food from the garden, the photo exhibit, and time to share adventures between pastor and congregation.
- Coronavirus permitting, Meighan takes the train or rents a car to travel around the country. Stops include a permaculture course on Orcas Island, a retreat at Holden Village on Lake Chelan, farm churches in Illinois, Maine, Maryland, and possibly elsewhere, and a crafts course at the John C. Campbell School of Folk Crafts. Family trips to the family's lake cabin, church camp with University UCC, and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival would also occur during this sabbatical time.

Without Funding:

- Starting in October, the church will need to identify funding resources, do some fundraising, at least to cover cost of a sabbatical pastor or pulpit supply.
- Activity packets
- Gardening at the farm could still happen.
- Meighan may still be able to do some limited travel, coronavirus permitting. Church members would be scheduled to stay at her house during her absence, tend the garden, share harvest with volunteers.

### **3. Hold a church fund-raising event**

- Specific: an online concert to include Prospect musicians, poets, clowns, and other performers to raise money for the church to implement COVID-related safety measures. Acts will likely be prerecorded.
- Measurable: one concert, at least an hour long
- Assignable or Achievable or Action-oriented: Kia will organize a theme and recruit performers. Jerry will likely be needed to mix the music. Dave and Tom will organize the House Band's performances.
- Relevant or Realistic: very do-able. We've done this kind of concert live, and had successfully raised funds for specific causes. We also have four months' experience in creating virtual ensembles.
- Time-based or Timely: Concert will happen between September and May, and will be advertised at least a month in advance.

### **4. Establish a church reopening process and reevaluate building goals in light of COVID 19**

- Specific: Determine what is necessary for a safe reopening for different categories of stakeholders: staff, congregation/visitors, renter, other users (weddings, funerals, special events), and create a formal policy based on best practices
- Measurable: metrics will be based on compliance with most current science
- Assignable or Achievable or Action-oriented: Building Access Committee and Trustees to determine feasibility, estimate costs. Formal policies created by CB using input from BUC and Trustees. John will confer with Terri about what's needed and do-able.

- Relevant or Realistic: We are challenged by the continually evolving science around COVID-19, but need to establish a comprehensive policy for renters who are already inquiring.
- Time-based or Timely: We should have a policy in place by at least by August 1 (depending on Terri's availability), but it will be subject to change as the science and the pandemic

**Building Use Policy:** We are getting requests for building rental and need to give our office manager clear guidelines. We came up with the following policy for now which will be updated and amended as needed:

Prospect United Church of Christ COVID related Building Use Policy

1. No one is to enter the building if they are sick.
2. People entering the building must wear a face covering at all times unless they are alone.
3. Groups of 2 or more must be able to maintain 6' of social distancing between individuals or households in addition to mask wear. The maximum number of people in the building shall not exceed 40.
4. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer on entering and leaving the building.
5. Wipe down high contact areas (such as doorknobs) with disinfectant after use.
6. Sign in and out.

We ended with prayer.

Submitted by Cora Trujillo, co-moderator.