

Church Board Minutes Dec 20

In attendance: Meighan, Cora, Jan, Patsy, John, Louise and Consi.

We opened with prayer.

Finance report: (Patsy) We are just under 42% of the way through the year. Pledges are about on budget, loose offering is well under budget, and facility use donations have already covered their part of the budget for the year. Expenses are generally on track with the budget. Year-to-date expenses are about \$7,000 more than year-to-date income. We have been notified that the PPP Loan is being forgiven, so December income is expected to be well above both budget and expenses. John asked Patsy to clarify if some expenses related to the building are coming out of the remodeling budget. Patsy will check.

Sabbatical Planning update: Amara Oden will be offered \$2,000 for pulpit supply for 10 of the 13 Sundays Meighan will be gone. We will ask Sam Rennebohm to preach one of the Sundays and be on call for pastoral care if needed. Since neither Sam nor Amara are ordained, Rick Russell will be requested to lead the communion portion of the worship services. Meighan will contact Amara, Sam and Rick re: above.

Auction Update: We set the date for Saturday, March 20. The goal will be \$8,000 with \$1,500 going to the church general operating fund and \$6,500 for sabbatical expenses. The auction team consists of Jan, Cora and Barbara Force. Brian Russell agreed to be auctioneer.

Trustees Report: We had a long discussion about **Chris, a man experiencing homelessness** who has been sleeping on the church front steps under the awning. John has been talking to him and in an email conversation with a neighbor across the street, Michael, who would like us to evict him. John has found Chris to be polite and respectful. Chris is on a waiting list for shelter. John will put Chris in touch with Jeff at Community Lunch to help foster connection with city homeless services. We may ask Chris to submit to a background check. We also will offer him use of a shed in the church parking lot so he would be less visible to the neighbors. John and Jan Kinney will plan an in-person (outdoors, masked) visit with the neighbor Michael to address his concerns.

Trustees reviewed fees for kitchen waste line replacement, painting of awning frame, new wiring in Fellowship Hall, new toilet in the back hall that were paid for Roy's work.

Update on Eritrean Congregation Rental of Sanctuary: Recent attendance suggests that Church is bumping up against occupancy limits. John has discussed this with them. The Eritrean Congregation Rental is currently to mid-February.

Key Lockbox Security: The Eritrean church suggested changing key lockbox combination due to termination of one of their members. Trustees are considering a replacement. They will research and report back.

Status of Prospect Enrichment Preschool Vacating the Building: They are moved out except for some large furniture (file cabinets and shelves) that John will take care of.

Building insurance premium adjustment negotiation update: Our insurance carrier has sent Karen a couple of refund checks on our premium. Trustees anticipate the total amount of the refund will be clarified when billing for new policy begins.

Possible Change of Phone Service from Copper Wire to Voice over Internet: The Trustees are looking into options to reduce monthly phone/internet charges from \$320 to less than \$100. Possible methods include use of upgraded modem and Obi internet interface box. Trustees will try to prepare a proposal to upgrade church phone and internet interface, in time for Church Board's January meeting.

Renovation and Rental of the vacant offices on the 3rd Floor: John, Terri Dowling, Suzanne Fry, and John Schrader are currently working on renovating the vacant offices on the 3rd Floor.

Pastor's report:

Worship and Music: As we transition to eventually meeting back in the church, we will need more technology for recording to keep long distance members and friends in touch. Kia and Jerry need a break and back-up due to putting together every service since March.

Gratitude and Generosity: Jan Wood will preach January 17 with the theme; "What do we have in our hand?" We will schedule small Zoom groups of 4 to 5 and answer the question; "When you think of spreading God's love in the world, what does that look like to you?" "Scribes" (members of G and G) will take notes and meet later to consolidate the answers and see if this gives us new direction for mission work.

On a personal note, Meighan expressed concern about the "Washington 3%" organization taking over the Grange on Whidbey Island where she lives. They are a right-wing group that flaunt weapons, gather without masks and have been acting in a threatening and intimidating manner. She meets with a South Whidbey Clergy Group and they are trying to figure out how to respond to their presence.

We ended with prayer.

Cora Trujillo,

Co-moderator