

Second Congregational Central Board – October 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Present: Dale Earl, Kathy Taylor, Jack Terrill, Lauren Swiniuch, Joyce Mosher, Peg Round, Doug Marquart, Nancy Koch, Rev Lisa Stedman

Meeting notice was posted in the September Spire and Weekly E-news, as well as announced at Sunday services.

Rev Lisa opened the meeting with a prayer at 6:35pm.

Minutes

September 16 meeting minutes - Acceptance moved by Peg seconded by Lauren; Approved unanimously (Kathy & Doug were absent and abstained).

Pastoral topic update from Rev Lisa –

- Lisa took some study leave time in the last few weeks to study Advent options.
- Also taking part in a 4 session clergy cohort – 3 online sessions & retreat at City Mission Society
- Briefly discussed upcoming Stewardship season. Designated November 13 as Pledge Sunday. Reminded us to make an effort to make a good, intentional ask from members and friends, and include a yearend gift request
- Reached out to Rev. Alex Shea Will at SNEUCC to discuss Transition/Legacy process; Alex provided contact info for Charlie Kuchenbrod, part-time SNEUCC on Legacy Churches; learned Heather Ramsey Mabrouk is SNEUCC Director of the Center for Transformational Leadership.

Finance Committee (Jack):

Jack is gathering documents ahead of the appraisal for property insurance the week of 24 October. Dale asked for volunteers to work on a Stewardship letter and short flyer to accompany. A reminder that the Finance Team meeting was rescheduled for tomorrow (10/19).

Property Committee (Jack):

- **Update to Handicap Door/Key cards** – Jack has been working through glitches in the new door systems with Instant Alarm. NSCS School & Teachers have cards, job 90% done; system still on Windows 7, will convert to Windows 11 the week of 10/24.
- **Family Promise NSB** – moving in 10/19
- **Internet/Phone/WiFi** – Comcast finally had parts needed and tech time, updated our system (finally - yay!!!!)
- **Trash Service** – Hiltz contacted Second Church and made an offer to take over our trash removal. Jack evaluated and determined we can save several hundred dollars per year. JRM is now part of Republic, a larger national company, so we also avoid the possible decline in service seen in the town of Reading the past month or so, as Republic is short of employees to meet commitments. Jack contacted JRM/Republic to terminate our service, and agreed to terms with Hiltz, who will place their own dumpster on our premises instead.
- T. Barrowclough to replace 2 broken windows 10/22.

Music Leader Search – After another offer was declined (candidate had accepted another position) Marshunda Smith has applied for our position and made it through the search committee's preliminary

screen. She is a conductor/director but does not play piano or organ. Josh Del Datto and his wife have agreed to cover most Sundays through June 2023 as piano accompanist, so the committee and Lisa are discussing possible ways to split the duties (and existing budget) to fill our needs during this church program year/June. More to come.

Mission/Social Action – Jay Swallow and Lauren Noonan have offered to do Thanksgiving dinner for delivery to Recovery High as takeout, and also for community pickup. Lisa asked if Mission/Social Action was planning a Thanksgiving Food Drive to help restock pantries. Kathy T took the action to call Dale Miller Bouton to discuss.

Transition process - CB discussed the need to clarify the decision to let go of our SCC building as we determine how best to conclude our ministry. It was agreed the best path forward would be to try to separate dealing with our Second Church Faith Community from the Second Church Building. After much discussion, a framework to separate the two was outlined, and will be developed further ahead of the October 30th Congregational Meeting, understanding it would probably take 1-3 years as our best estimate. This would likely take a part-time minister after Lisa and Wendy retire, while the plan for the building is resolved and executed.

Rev Lisa took the action to try to arrange a near term Central Board zoom meeting with Charlie Kuchenbrod, the SNEUCC Legacy Church consultant and Rev. Alex Shea Will to discuss Transition/Legacy process and answer questions in more detail (subsequently scheduled for 10/20).

We also discussed the impact this path would have on current staff to make sure they have a realistic understanding of the situation ahead of the 10/30 meeting. Lisa took the action to discuss with Mary Jane Clark and Jan Allen in the next week.

Kathy Taylor shared that she was contemplating resigning from the Central Board, due to the stress and anxiety she is feeling related to all the discussion about Second Church becoming a legacy church. The Central Board thanked Kathy for her service, and Dale will prayerfully consider next steps as Kathy finalizes her plans to step down soon.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.