

Central Board Meeting, Wednesday August 16, 2023

Present: Dale Earl, Jack Terrill, Lauren Noonan, Nancy Koch, Peg Round, Joyce Moser, and Doug Marquart. Nancy's microphone wasn't working, but she contributed her usual pithy inputs via the Zoom chat function.

Absent: Peggie Morris

Dale offered an opening prayer at 7:00pm.

Search Team report/discussion – Lauren Noonan asked to go first with her Search Team update as she had a personal commitment and needed to leave early. 3 candidate Zoom interviews so far, 1 on deck. Key takeaways:

- Liked 1st candidate, but while scheduling a 2nd in-person interview, candidate withdrew from consideration.
- Team decided not to pursue 2nd candidate beyond initial interview.
- 3rd candidate was interviewed earlier 8/16; team interested, very impressed, looking to schedule a 2nd in-person interview. Asked about hours and salary. The SNEUCC area minister feels we may need to consider a salary higher offer, despite offering $\frac{3}{4}$ salary for our size church (<40 participating members) and prorated retirement annuity, as well as FULL health and medical insurance coverage.
- 4th candidate to be interviewed the week of 8/21.

Search Team asked for CB input on days/times in office and visitation expectations, as some candidates may be commuting from beyond the North Shore/Cape Ann area, and then Lauren needed to drop off the meeting.

Dale shared the 27 April version of our SCC profile used for our posting (three quarter time). CB members exchanged ideas on proposed salary, days of week and expected duties like visitation as we move forward toward dissolution. Dale offered to speak with David Brandt/Gail Goodell as co-chairs to see what kind of direction/input they need beyond what the CB has already provided.

Minutes of the June 21 meeting were unanimously approved. Jack made the motion and Peg seconded.

Pulpit Supply/Bridge Pastor – Rev Judy Arnold will lead worship Sunday 8/20. Dale talked of the need to have a minister in place for regular weekly worship, starting Sunday 9/10, and the option of securing a bridge minister for a few months rather than rely on tracking down weekly pulpit supply options as it seems like any candidate the Search Team identifies will need to give notice to their current church, transition time etc.

- Doug moved: **CB to pursue hiring Judy Arnold as SCC Bridge Pastor through 11/1.** Jack 2nd. Passed unanimously. Dale to touch base with Judy after Sunday 8/20 service.

Legacy Team Update - Jack: The Legacy Team has provided comments on the Lifebridge proposed LOI through legal counsel for Lifebridge's consideration. We are expecting to get that cycled through both parties legal representatives and Boards etc in the next few weeks. The plan is to share that preliminary version of the LOI with the Mass AG Office's Div of Charities to try to get their blessing or comments in the Fall.

LT is also compiling a proposed list of entities that might receive a portion of our assets as part of final disposition further down the road at final dissolution. LT members each proposing 5 groups at this point. Final list will be up for congregational vote and AG approval.

Legacy Team was thrilled with the 7/23 Forward Chat Meet n' Greet with Jason Etheridge from Lifebridge and Rachel Hand from FPNSB. Overall, it went very well and discussion/questions & answers stayed within the boundaries received from our lawyers.

Jack also shared that some from the LT had become aware of posts on Beverly community FB pages commenting on the future of SCC. The LT agreed via email not to publicly comment but will continue to monitor. Question arose as to whether we have talking points or a script for MJC and Jan Allen, should they receive a call along those lines in the church office. Jack took the action to prep responses and discuss with both of them.

Tech Team (via email from Peggie/David Brandt and subsequent actions):

A 2nd Zoom license has been acquired to allow the Search Team to interview without interfering with other weekly church meetings. Will evaluate usage and cost implications after a new minister is in place and decide to keep or cancel the 2nd account at that point in time.

Claire's last Sunday with us will be 8/20. As of 8/16, Unique Mkusa, another BHS student, has confirmed interest and availability for Sunday mornings. Dale will reach out to see if Unique can be at church 8/20 for cross training and David's schedule for 9/10. This is really good news towards keeping our streaming and recorded video presence going in the fall.

Finance – current plan is to do a low key Stewardship letter and support request. We will have sermons on the topic but not use personal testimonials in the appeal. We do need to continue to approve annual budgets to authorize the SCC Treasurer to pay bills.

Mission/Social Action – Joyce noted she'd received no input for the CB from Dale Miller-Bouton.

Misc topic – Doug brought up the question of the policy of charging nominal rental fees to inactive members for weddings and funerals. In July, the inactive member's family paid the minister and custodian directly, but nothing was charged for rental of the sanctuary. Most inactive members provide little to no financial support to SCC for at least 2 years vs active members that provide support. Dale agreed to research the current policy and take up the topic down the road.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13pm. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday September 20th at 7:00 pm.