

Second Congregational Central Board – November 15, 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 October Spire and Weekly E-news, as well as announced at Sunday services.

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

Minutes

October 18 meeting minutes after correction to clarify Rev Heather Ramsey Mabrouk's position with SNEUCC as the "Director of The Center for Transformational Leadership." Acceptance moved by Jack seconded by Lauren; Approved unanimously.

Pastoral topic update from Rev Lisa –

- Lisa expressed excitement to have the Music scheduled for services in place, hopeful it spurs attendance and views.
- Advent Workshop/Brunch Church planned for 12/4. Lisa to look into purchasing quiches, frittatas, or another main dish, inviting people to sign up to bring sweet breads or side dishes of fresh fruit to share.
- Affirmed Christmas Eve would be the 4pm Family Service. Lisa reminded us all to consider singing our favorite Christmas hymn wherever we are as we near midnight, assuming the CB member is awake.
- Lisa will offer an orientation on the limited term pastoral search process. Tentatively planned for 11/28 via Zoom.
- Lisa to meet with Julie Flowers to plan for the "Longest Night" joint service to be held at the 12/21 at First Baptist Church on Cabot St; they also provide pastoral peer support including discussion of plans for SCC and other topics. SCC will not hold a Blue Christmas Service.

November 13 Forward Chat Discussion – the Central Board was generally surprised with the relatively few number of questions and comments, but in general took that as a sign that the congregation has processed the CB-led presentations and discussions in September and the October 30 recommendations and didn't have that many questions. Dale reminded us to be open to taking additional questions and input ahead of the 12/18 Budget Meeting, and the need to continue to communicate. Need Spire inputs by 11/22.

Pastoral Search Team: Dale reported she has been contacted by David Brandt, David Boynton, Lauren Noonan, Donna Kendall, and Gail Goodell. Cheri Marquart offered to be a backup, but will be away Dec 19-April 8. Dale will continue to take volunteers until 12/4 as announced, and then finalize the Team.

Building Legacy Team: Jack will publish the names from volunteers for the BLT and initial direction in the November Spire, as part of the Communication to get endorsement at the 12/18 Budget Meeting. As of 11/15, Jack, Mac Donaldson, Dale Miller-Bouton, Dale Earl, and Doug Marquart. Kathy Taylor has offered to support specific topics or subtopics as they arise.

Initial thoughts are to survey the congregation to understand desires and preferences and interview lawyers. Lisa offered to make contact within SNEUCC to leverage people from churches that have been

through the Legacy Transition such as Pleasant St Arlington, Center Church Newton and Congregational Church West Medford (now Sanctuary UCC).

Finance Committee (Jack/Dale): Pledges for 2023 are being returned. Finance Team looking to get an update of pledges from Jan this week, will make a few phone calls after that. Tentative plan is to submit at proposed 2023 budget to the Central Board for review and endorsement after they meet 11/29. Looking for CB approval to copy in time to distribute at the 12/4 service.

Sanctuary Team – Decided to tie in with Mission/Social Action and repeat the ask for food donations for Beverly Bootstraps and combine them with a few pumpkins and gourdes, to decorate our altar for Thanksgiving Sunday. Mary Jane Clark offered to organize poinsettia donations for Advent/Christmas (mixed in with artificial plants from Covid-19 times). Suzanne Monroe asked Lauren for help identifying additional volunteers.

Property Committee (Jack) - We are using a dumpster from Hiltz, after our service was changed to that provider. Jack has contacted Republic/JRM, still waiting for them to remove their dumpster.

Mission/Social Action – Jay Swallow and Lauren Noonan are preparing Thanksgiving dinner for delivery to Recovery High as takeout 11/18, and also for community pickup 11/19. 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.

Tech Update – Minnie was able to remove the old firewall and finalize the software & operating system updates; all staff access to the printer is now restored. Minnie working to transfer our domain name to Wix. Claire on vacation the next 2 weeks, David Brandt will be covering (thanks David!!!).

Next meeting will be Dec 13th (Second Tuesday since Finance Team will meet earlier in December). Closing prayer by Lisa, and meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.