

## **Second Congregational Central Board – February 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Present: Jack Terrill, Joyce Mosher, Nancy Koch, Peg Round, Doug Marquart, and Rev Lisa Stedman.

Absent: Dale Earl, Lauren Swiunich; Jack chaired the meeting in Dale's absence.

Meeting notice was posted in the February 2023 Spire and Weekly E-news, as well as announced at Sunday services.

Rev Lisa opened the meeting with a prayer at 6:37 pm.

### **Minutes**

January 17 2023 meeting minutes – Acceptance with updated date in title moved by Peg, seconded by Nancy. Approved unanimously w the minor update.

### **Pastoral topic update from Rev Lisa –**

- Good plans in place for worship. Subscribed to same publisher as Advent series used for Lent, with the theme of "Seeking". Lisa believes it will help members and guest look deeper into their own faith; she is excited for Lent!
- Wendy will be taking off a Sunday in March, and Lisa plans to take off a Sunday right after Easter as part of the compensatory "thank you" time we offered in recognition that we've come off a stress time with Covid, and want to provide a little more relaxation time for our ministers.
- Hoping to reschedule Just Peace Singers after Easter, and also our SNEUCC Area Minister Alex Shea Will needs to be scheduled for a return visit to our service mid/late Spring.
- Music – Kathy Eddy will plan and lead music for the Palm Sunday service. Josh & Marshunda working well together and with the choir. The Twins are being given a little extra effort to help them continue feeling connected.
- Looking at summer (July/August) possibilities to share services with another church. Options might give our new minister a smoother ramp up to onboarding after Lisa & Wendy retire.
- **Pastoral Search Committee** – Lisa reported the team is working well. They've received 16-20 surveys back, and she reminded us to make sure we respond with input for the church's priorities. They have begun working on the form for the job posting & church profile; hoping to have that done and be ready to actively post and search in 2-3 weeks. They are still hoping to expand the pool by looking outside the UCC portal; Lisa confirmed she share the CB expectation that candidates from other paths will require vetting and employment background checks as part of the due diligence requirements for our employment policies as well as our insurance.
- Continuing to have staff discussions on succession to insure a graceful transition as we look ahead to possible changes.

### **Legacy Team – Jack (chair) shared progress and status**

- Commercial appraiser hired after receiving 3 bids; expect process to be complete with report by 2/28. Appraisal results will be discussed in exec session due to public posting of minutes. Once we have a commercial realtor under agreement, they and the lawyer (see below) will advise us on how to proceed. A bit of angst with North Shore Christian School (NSCS) teachers on the day the appraiser was on-site and the Head of School hadn't yet communicated SCC plans to the NSCS Staff.
- We have interviewed 3 lawyers that have experience with church closures and charity dissolution under Massachusetts state law as administered through the AG Office and SJC

review. Have received 1 quote, and expect to receive the other 2 by 2/27, with a recommended selection shortly thereafter. We'll bring the vote to a congregational meeting before signing any letter of intent.

- NSCS and Lifebridge (in partnership with Family Promise NSB) have both expressed interest in the building. We received a preliminary draft proposal from Lifebridge after several board members toured the SCC facilities.
- Jack reminded everyone not to traffic in rumors and swat them down if necessary. Our proposed plan will be shared with full CB and the SCC Congregation before any commitments are made.
- Mac is doing records search, reviewing articles of incorporation and establishment, as well as any restricted gifts etc in our endowment pool. Making progress with MJC assistance.

**Property Team (Jack)** – rear parking lot entry door to back kitchen stairs will be replaced by Tom Barrowclough. Fiberglass door now on order (significant lead time from factory). Our thanks to Tom for donating the labor costs. J. Silver helping to resolve several electrical issues that are ongoing.

**Tech Item** – Thanks to David Brandt who is covering for Clare (had surgery) enabling us to continue streaming and recording while Clare is out. Sound issues on Zoom may be related to software and algorithm changes at Zoom; our consultant reported several churches sharing issues after recent updates on Zoom Community Support websites when cameras pan out. **Also, need to remind Dale to follow up with Beverly High School teachers/admin for suggestions for candidates to take Clare's place after she graduates.**

**Finance Team** – several items for full CB awareness and vote:

- David Varga has several actions within his purview, no help needed from CB. Includes paying SNEUCC our 2022 commitment as well as our monthly donations for 2023.
- Finance Team and Legacy Team recommend setting aside a \$40,000 portion of our invested funds to cover multi-year expenses related to the BOLT process (primarily legal expenses, which was completed by David & Jan.

Next meeting will be March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, 6:30pm.

Closing prayer by Lisa, at 7:30pm. & meeting adjourned.