

Church Board Minutes March 2022 (Held by email). Contributing were Meighan Pritchard, Cora Trujillo, Sam Rennebohm, Dave Kidder, Pat Severson and Louise Morehouse.

Treasurer's report: (Patsy)

We are 2/3 (66.67%) of the way through the fiscal year.

Pledges are slightly under budget. Loose offering and facility use donations are under budget but increasing as COVID-19 restrictions ease.

Staff expenses are about at budget, but office, building, maintenance, and committee expenses other are under budget.

February income is about \$4,300 less than expenses, but year-to-date income is about \$10,700 more than YTD expenses. Without the generous donation income would still be just slightly more than expenses.

Prospect Covid-19 Policy: Due to dropping COVID transmissions levels and hospitalizations in King County, we agreed to drop all rules and mandates regarding masking and social distancing for people using our building. Sign-in sheets will no longer be required nor will building capacity be restricted. We still recommend people refrain from entering the building if they are sick, be vaccinated, wash hands frequently and use their best judgement regarding masks. We will still ask worship attendees to mask out of consideration for their fellow worshipers.

Coffee Hour: We have not held our traditional "coffee hour" after worship in over two years. Even before COVID, we were having a hard time recruiting coffee hour hosts. Cora proposed rethinking how we do fellowship after worship. Judy Hooper agreed to host a traditional coffee hour for Easter. Cora and Stacy Chilberg are interested in occasionally hosting a simple lunch after the service and others may be interested enough that we could offer this once per month. Other Sundays we would just visit in the pews.

Another man sleeping on our front porch: Our neighbor across the street emailed the church last week to report another man has been sleeping on our front porch and was openly urinating @ 8AM in the bushes in front of the steps. How should we handle this? We need to come up with a clear policy what to do about people experiencing homelessness on our property. In the past calls and emails to the city were no help except to be told to call the police. One options is calling Operation Nightwatch and having them come out to discuss shelter options. Most CB members were against calling the police unless there is an active danger. A proposal last year to partner with Operation Nightwatch to have our church be a night shelter for homeless men was rejected by the Trustees. Meighan left a note on the porch asking the man to move along as we have no amenities. Meighan will research what other Seattle churches are doing with the issue.

Proposal to combine boards and committees to one Church Board: Cora proposed combining CB, Trustees, Worship and Music, Gratitude and Generosity and SEJ teams into one Church Board. The benefits being fewer meetings, better communication among boards and

teams and need to recruit fewer volunteers. The proposal was soundly rejected by all interested parties.

Need for hired tech help during worship and building handyman: Dave Kidder is working with Trustees and the Worship and Music team to write a job description for both of these positions.

Update on Meighan's goals January – June 2022

Worship

The Worship & Music Team is planning farther ahead and has developed worship themes for the liturgical seasons of the year. W and M team is working with Kia to develop a job description to help her transition to covering only 1/2 of worship Sundays. This may involve a combination of a 2nd music director and volunteer help. The W and M team is also working with Dave Kidder to hire a part time tech intern. She is exploring trying new angles on worship such as using art, poetry and an outdoor service.

Outreach

Green Buildings Now

I have joined both the Outreach Committee and the Leadership Committee for GBN. This organization is coming alongside Bethany UCC on Beacon Hill to help that church become a resilience hub for its community. Efforts have begun to add insulation, convert gas and oil heating systems to heat pumps, etc., to make the campus significantly more energy efficient. These improvements impact a daycare center, at least one nonprofit, and the congregation itself. Much of the fundraising work these days focuses on a May 15 concert at Seattle First Baptist Church of a piece called "The Alaska Suite." Tickets are \$20-40 apiece. Would Prospect like to buy 10 tickets? I will apply to Weter-Roberts for additional funding for GBN.

Afghan Family Resettlement

We have partnered with University UCC and University Temple (soon to be renamed University Gathering) to sponsor the Hamidi family of 8. We are working with the Refugee Resettlement Office (RRO) of the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia. Multiple Prospect people have jumped in to help with various aspects of this project. The Hamidi family expects to move into permanent housing in early to mid-April in South Seattle. ESL lessons have begun, we are tracking offers of furniture, and we are beginning to build relationships with this family.

I am delighted at the way Prospect individuals have leaped into action around this project. It gives us something hands-on to be doing in the broader community.

Building Use

Karen booked the AARP into the preschool classroom two days a week to offer free assistance on preparing taxes. We held Bob Bakke's memorial service on March 13, which marked our reentry into worship in the building. We have begun to offer music teachers the opportunity to hold their recitals in the building at no charge but are welcoming donations. Meighan will continue to work with Trustees to promote building use in line with our church mission.

Being ¾ Time

I am enjoying taking on the extra outreach projects. This feels like a piece that has been missing and that is life-giving to our members. In future we could also look at providing more adult education faith formation opportunities.

If the switch to ¾ time continues beyond June, I will try to formalize my days and hours more than I have to date. On Wednesdays I'm at my other job, at University UCC. Thursdays are currently the one day I consistently try to take off completely. GBN and a Whidbey clergy group meet on Fridays, and sermon writing/final worship prep often take place on Saturdays.

Submitted by Cora Trujillo
Moderator