

Church Board Minutes November 20, 2022

In attendance: Meighan, Cora, Jan, Patsy, and Suzanne Fry representing Trustees

People camping on our front porch:

Signs stating “No Camping” and giving contact info for Operation Nightwatch and Crisis Connection will go up soon. Meighan, Karen and church members will try to check more frequently and ask campers to leave or call the police. Putting up a gate to the front steps was rejected due to the expense and being against the language of our Working Covenant; “We covenant to be a welcoming community.” Trustees will research installing motion detection lights as a deterrent (and a good safety measure for those entering and leaving the building at night) and a Ring doorbell system.

Vitality work:

We reviewed our notes from the Vitality congregational meeting November 14 with Courtney Stange-Tregear, acting conference minister. To improve church vitality, she said we need to focus on learning the needs of our community and then decide what Prospect can do to meet those needs. Meighan will set up a meeting with Stevens Elementary School’s principal. We need to ask folks who live in the neighborhood what their needs are. We will continue with Vitality Team meetings the first Sunday of the month but keep membership in the team fluid and invite folks who have expressed an interest in helping.

COVID congregational policy regarding masks:

We agreed to loosen our mask requirements from “required” to “encouraged.” We will continue to ask people to stay home and attend by ZOOM if they have any COVID, cold or flu symptoms. Choir members will test on Sundays in order to sing without masks.

Church Audit:

It has been many years since we’ve had an audit of our financial practices. Patsy and Cora signed up for an on-line seminar on how to do one using volunteers.

Treasurer’s report:

Year-to-date income is over budget due to the carryforward from last year. We haven't taken the Osgood or Parker Cook contributions as yet.

Year-to-date utilities and office expenses are running a little under budget in part because building use is still not at pre-pandemic levels. YTD building insurance is running over budget. YTD staff expenses are at budget. Social and environmental justice spending on contributions to the community continues.

Year-to-date worship expenses are running over budget at the moment because we continue to invest in equipment for hybrid worship and events with gratitude to Jerry Sams and Dave Kidder for all the work they are doing. We've spent a little over half the hybrid worship project budget for the year; the front-loaded spending is as expected.

There is some concern that with our return to in-person worship during much of the month that church donations should be deposited more often. Patsy will have a discussion with Consi about how to address this and if a 2nd financial secretary is needed.

Meighan and Cora will work with Patsy to make brief quarterly narrative reports to present to the congregation before the offering in worship.

Bob Bakke Legacy Fund:

How do we decide how to spend this? We expect some ideas will come out of our Vitality work. We will use our Working Covenant and Purpose Statement as guidance. All proposals for spending will need to address what part of these documents the spending proposals support.

Pastor Check-in:

Meighan will continue the “Pastor is in” office hour at Macrina Bakery Tuesdays at 11 AM. She is the convener of the PNC-UCC environmental team and is on the board of Green Buildings Now. Is there some way our building can support her environmental connections in the community?

Submitted by Cora Trujillo
Moderator