

United Church on the Green
Leadership Board Meeting January 11, 2023
Minutes
via zoom

1. The meeting was called to order by Al Forino, moderator of the congregation, at 7:02 p.m. Present: Christine Maursky, June Richards, John Sawyer, Dennis Titley, Interim Minister Rev Kevin Ewing. Absent: Tim Bertaccini, Don Bertrand, Jane Jervis, Karen Schneider. Rev Kev opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. The Minutes of the December 14, 2022 meeting were approved by consent.

3. Al updated the Board on our Pastoral Search. They have continued to receive profiles from deserving candidates, and interviews were held over the holidays. We don't have any real idea on timetables yet, but probably several months still.

4. Building Report. John said that the Bradley Room is coming along. Duo-Dickenson has left a palate of colors. George and John looked it over and painted samples on the HVAC room wall to share with the congregation. Once the colors have been decided upon, they will get together with Duo and finalize the colors for the carpet, kitchen floor tiles, and counter top laminate, hopefully within the next two weeks.

Some of the electrical work is done. The electrician is waiting for the inspector to come, so that anything he finds will be able to be corrected "on the spot", and we will try to get final approval at that time. The kitchen cabinets, new dishwasher, and microwave/vent hood are all here.

We have had a new lock installed on the front door of the meetinghouse. John shared a list of those people who will be issued new keys.

Steeple Window Replacement:

Eight windows at the very top of the steeple need to be replaced. John Cusick will remove one window and fill the space with ¼ inch Lexan. The cost for this part will be \$4,978. John Cusick will then get quotes from window manufacturers, which John Sawyer will then report to the Board.

5. IRIS/Shalom Resolution. Al reported that, thanks to wonderful handling by Jack Russell and John Sawyer, everyone involved was extremely cooperative. John reported that IRIS will be taking down the round tables, chairs, and curtain walls in the Great Hall at the end of their program week, so that Will can do a proper cleaning, and whenever Shalom decides to return to in person worship, the Great Hall space will be available.

6. Advisory Planning update. Al shared that this meeting will be on Zoom at 7pm on January 24th. All heads of committees, task forces, and ministry teams will be included.

7. Pastor's Report. Rev Kev and Luke from Trinity met with the mayor last week about the notifications of when the streets are going to be closed or when something is happening on the Green. It was a very good meeting. Going forward, the city will include us in the monthly mailing list from the Parks Department listing the groups that have received permits to use the Green and when those events will be. The city will also let us know which streets will be closed and when.

Luke raised a concern about the people who spend a lot of time on the Green, the obvious and rampant drug use, and the need for services. We were told that the city has started a new program called Compass. It is run out of a new Office of Resiliency, and is comprised of social workers and people with "street cred" and training, who will go on calls instead of the police. So, for example, if someone is having a mental health issue, instead of the police going in and handling the call their way, these people will go in and spend time with the person. It's a pilot program that is being done in a few cities around the country. Someone from this group is planning to come out and speak to us at some point. The teams work throughout the city. Right now the police are still receiving the initial call, and will call the team in. When the team is not out on a call, they are on the Green, so the mayor wants us to meet and talk to them, and build a relationship. Rev Kev will send a link with information about this program to the Board.

Rev Kev also talked to the mayor about the church becoming better integrated into the life of the city; thinking of ways we could offer space for events that are going on at City Hall or on the Green. Another way for us to get involved would be for some of us to go to the monthly Management Team meetings. Every neighborhood in New Haven has one. Rev Kev says that some are more effective than others, and he suggests we get involved with some of those. "It's a good place to meet neighbors and talk about who we are."

If Rev Kev is still with us in May, he will be taking some time off to go to St. Louis, so we will potentially need pastoral coverage for Mother's Day, May 8th. Al will make sure that the Worship and Music Ministry Team know about this.

8. John presented the Treasurer's Report. As of the end of December, our income is at 50% and our expenses are at 49%. We are currently showing a \$3,000 surplus. We have \$93,683 in the bank, so we are in good shape with that. We got quotes for doing an overview of the books and an audit. The Finance Committee still thinks it would be a good idea to do this before a new pastor arrives. John does not feel we need a full audit, that the overview would be sufficient. That would be in the \$6,000-\$9,000 range. John will get a more accurate number and report it to the Board.

9. We have received an inquiry from OASIS, the federated youth group, regarding making contributions annually to support the group. They are specifically looking for something for the program year 2023 and Al doesn't think we have anything budgeted. He would like to know the total that is spent per year so that we could make a good decision on this, as well as to budget for it next year. Chris Maursky answered that OASIS has been run differently for different years. Last year when they came back in person after the pandemic, there were no costs for any of the events; they carried all the costs. This year for some of the events, there a cost for involvement. Rev Kev had just been in a meeting about this, and he said OASIS had a grant from Yale as well as some funds that came out of the liquidation of Redeemer. The Yale grant money has all been used. Tim is going to ask Nancy how much we had given in the past, pre-pandemic, and Al will try to find out how much they estimate their yearly cost should be. Chris also suggested that we consider offering our space for some of the youth group events, once the Bradley Room is open again. Rev Kev then suggested we try to connect the Oasis youth group to some of the youth from IRIS. For this, we could use the Great Hall.

10. Center/United Joint Activities. Al said everyone who attended the January 1st joint service thought it went very well. There was a lot more mixing among members from the two churches than he recalls from past events. There has been interest expressed from Center to contact us about doing more activities on a joint basis. The worship and music ministry team has expressed interest in inviting Center to our Ash Wednesday service this year.

11. Other Business. From the Worship and Music Ministry Team, the sacristy has been getting kind of "dingy" with the Bradley Room reconstruction. Recently Al and Ruth Anne Olson noticed that our communion silver is being stored underneath the sink, and seeing as we haven't used it for quite a while, Al feels it should be moved to the safe. John suggested Al speak to Jack and have Will see how much room is in the safe.

Dennis had a question from Jack's Building Report. Jack states we are in discussion with IRIS about renting more space to them for a summer-only program. John explained that we are considering renting one of the offices upstairs that is currently leased, month-to-month, by the Junior League only for storage, as well as possibly Nancy Lupi's office, as she never works in that space anymore.

12. The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 7p.m. on Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.