

**United Church on the Green**  
**Leadership Board Meeting February 8, 2023**  
**Minutes**  
**via zoom**

1. The meeting was called to order by Al Forino, moderator of the congregation, at 7:01 p.m. Present: Tim Bertaccini, Christine Maursky, Julie Peterman, June Richards, John Sawyer, Karen Schneider, Dennis Titley, Interim Minister Rev Kevin Ewing. Absent: Don Bertrand, Jane Jervis,. Rev Kev opened the meeting with a prayer.
  
2. The Minutes of the January 11, 2022 meeting were approved by consent.
  
3. Tim presented the Treasurer's Report. We are 58.3% through the budget year. Our income is at 59% and our expenses are at 59%. We are a little bit over in expenses, because we budgeted for a negative balance. We are currently showing a -\$13,000 balance. Our annual giving is at 57%. Tim projects our annual giving, which has a goal of \$155,000 will come in at somewhere around \$150,000, so we are in pretty good shape there. Our rental income compensates for the slight deficit with annual giving compared to where we should be. So overall we are in good shape fiscally. Al asked Tim to explain a bit about the budget schedule for the upcoming year. Tim said that Jack started working on the budget after the last finance committee meeting, where he was given a few pointers on some numbers to use. He will bring something to the next finance committee meeting (not the final draft) in early March. The committee will finalize it by April, and present it to this Board in the April meeting. Then it will be ready for presentation at the Annual Meeting in June. Anyone who has requests for the budget, should send them to Tim. All committees should be told.
  
4. Al updated the Board on our Pastoral Search. The last candidate we attempted to call has withdrawn from consideration because they put their search on hold for family reasons. The committee has wasted no time, and has four interviews scheduled – one is a second interview. They are doing interviews on Saturday nights, weeknights, and Sunday afternoons; moving full-speed ahead. Profiles are continuing to come in, a majority of which are very good. So we are still hopeful.
  
5. New Member Orientation. Rev Kev shared that Roger gave Nicole the information she will need to make up the folders for the new members. So far, Abram and Lisa Guerra have said they are interested in joining. Rev Kev has reached out to Dom and Holly. Al is contacting John and Rashana Miller. The orientation will be on a Sunday after church in early March.
  
6. Building Report. John said that the last time he was in the Bradley Room, you could walk all the way around on very solid flooring. The ramp was mostly completed.

We have had several conversations with IRIS. If we rent them the spaces we have been talking about, the annual rental income will be about \$4,500/year. We are also in conversation with them about the parking situation. There are multiple ideas going around at this point; the last email John saw was about monetizing the parking on behalf of the church, which would be similar to most employees that work downtown have to pay for parking.

Rev Kev and John are going to be meeting with Allie Perry from Shalom and someone from the conference to discuss Shalom's AV needs in the Great Hall. John has told Allie that when our Bradley Room is open our sound system and cameras that are currently in the Great Hall will be moving over there and will not be available for Shalom's use.

John has been talking to the folks at Preservation CT about helping us with the windows at the top of the steeple, as well as John Cusick who is doing the removal of the two panes and replacing with ¼ inch Lexan. It seems John Cusick restores windows too. So we may have another option for those windows. Chris from Preservation CT suggests that even though the windows are circa mid 50's that we still try to maintain the integrity of them.

John will also be working with Tim and Jack on the budget, and will be doing the three (and this year, five) year rolling average for the endowment.

7. Tim then asked about an Ash Wednesday service. Rev Kev cannot be there that evening. Al said that we were considering a joint service with Center, but they do not do Ash Wednesday services. So we will not be having one this year.

8. Proprietors of the Green. Al, Rev Kev, and Angelyn Singer, along with representatives of all three churches on the Green, met with representatives of the agents to the Proprietors of the Green at Claire's recently. The purpose of the meeting was to solicit ideas from the three churches as to what types of activities, structures, and uses we would ideally like to see the Green put to, as well as what types of problems, if any, we were having. So we gave them a bunch of ideas. There were a lot of suggestions about keeping the upper Green "respectful", because it still has 5,000 colonists buried there. A suggestion Al made was that, since all the churches have a lack of public facilities, some sort of restroom; and not portalettes, but something with some dignity that everyone can use. They also talked about turning back WIFI on the Green, along with many other suggestions. The group agreed they should continue to meet. Al is encouraging anyone who has ideas about how the Green should be used, improvements, etc. to Al, Rev Kev, or Angelyn.

There is a proposed project among the three churches on the Green to make sure there are ample supplies of naran and that people are adequately trained on the use of the portable defibrillators. Al has spoken to both the Finance Committee and Jack, and we will be getting 3 of the defibrillators; one for the parish house and 2 for the meetinghouse. Al also encouraged IRIS to have people who are trained in the use of them. Will will be trained as well. There also will be a CPR class. Anyone who wants to take part can email Rev Kev or Al and they will let you know when the classes will be.

9. Census. The new bylaws require us to do a new census at least once every four years. Al feels this would be a good time to get this going. The Clerk and the Moderator are involved in various parts of the census. Chris volunteered to help, and Dennis may also. Dennis has also been investigating various church database programs. After some discussion, it was decided to refer this to be discussed at the staff meeting, to figure out if what we have currently is working.

Chris then asked about the criteria for active vs. inactive members. Al responded that the bylaws state, "Members shall be active or inactive. Active members are those who conform to the minimum requirements of activity as prescribed by the Leadership Board." So we have to decide what those requirements are. We also have a third category, Friend. This Board will take up the question of criteria at a future meeting.

Tim wanted to be sure the Board was aware that only about 40 people actually pledge to the church, and that 50% of the money pledged comes from just 2-3 people. We were told that this is typical for UCC churches in the New Haven Association, and according to Rev Kev, for non-profits in general.

10. Al shared that he has asked for all zoom church meetings for the upcoming week be listed in the bulletin under THIS WEEK AT UNITED CHURCH. Karen feels this is a good idea. We then discussed accessing the member section of the website. Karen finds the new "random" password that each member has to use to access that area to be a bit cumbersome, but understands that the simple password we all used to use just isn't secure. Julie shared that she hasn't been able to access the member section of the website since it was updated. Lizzy has tried multiple times to give her access. So far, no luck. She is not the only one who has had, or is currently having, difficulties.

11. Al will be away from March 6<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>, so will not be at next month's meeting. Julie and Dennis with both be travelling and do not expect to be able to attend. Al asked Tim to chair the next meeting, which will be Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 7p.m. on Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.