

United Church on the Green
Leadership Board Meeting May 10, 2023
Minutes
via zoom

1. The meeting was called to order by Al Forino, moderator of the congregation, at 7:05 p.m. Present: Christine Maursky, June Richards, John Sawyer, Karen Schneider, Dennis Titley, Moderator Al Forino,. Absent: Tim Bertaccini, Don Bertrand, Jane Jervis, Julie Peterman, Interim Minister Rev Kevin Ewing. Al offered an opening prayer. He then shared a few announcements. Jane Jervis has retired from the Board. He also shared the sad news that Nancy Bassett has passed away. There was also a nice write-up about United Church in the New Journal at Yale, written by Abbey Kim who visited us a while ago to experience a service with us and speak to several members about United. The article is called, “Coming Out, Coming Home” and it is in the April edition. There are photos, and United has a very prominent place in the article. One more thing. Colleen O’Connor told Al the other day that Center Church’s Interim “Settled” Pastor has resigned, and their Intern has quit.
2. The Minutes of the April 12, 2023 meeting were approved by consent.
3. John presented the Treasurer’s Report. We are 83% through the budget year. Our income is at 83% and our expenses are at 89%, still because of our unanticipated capital expenses. Al then said that he had two pieces of good news on the financial side. First, a while back, Caesar mentioned that there were organ repairs that had to be made. Caesar had been talking to Mark Brombaugh about it, and Mark recommended David Moore, and also offered to pay for the repairs himself. We will make sure we send Mark and Katherine Thank You cards on behalf of the church. The second piece of good news was that Al was able to send a check to our church and the Community Foundation of New Haven from Walter Carson and Walter Staley’s estates. The Community Foundation is got \$75,000 and United Church on the Green got \$225,000. That isn’t a final distribution, but that is the bulk of it. There is additional money that is being held back because the estate has to remain open until Walter Carson’s Pradaxa lawsuit is settled. The Social Security Administration is currently rethinking all of their compromise agreements for all of their litigation across the country. Al thinks we may get another \$20-30,000 from it. Most of this money will be put into the Endowment. Some of the money will go into our Operating Account right now for expenses. So we can be thankful to Walter Carson and Walter Staley for their generosity.
4. Giving Team/Stewardship Task Force. The Stewardship letters have gone out to everyone. Al has urged everyone to make their pledges early. Julie has lined up people to speak for the next several weeks about why they pledge to the church. We are hopeful we will do as well as we did last year. Our thanks go to Julie, who is doing a great job heading up Stewardship, and thanks also to Dennis who has shared his experience from last year with Julie.
5. Building Committee. John reported we have a couple of things going on. We are getting estimates on correcting our long-standing lighting issues in the sanctuary. Two of the lights in the dome have been out for awhile. All those lights are currently incandescent, which is costing us more than necessary in electricity. So the building committee has asked for a quote from our electrician on climbing up there and replacing all the dome lights with LED lights, which will mean changing the entire fixture. Also, the arch lights above the pulpit should be similarly replaced, although getting way up there to do the job may be a challenge. Currently, only 3 out of the 12 are working. We have already installed a new

dimmer system for all the rest of the lights in the sanctuary. We would like to have a master switch installed into the new system, which will allow us to dim all the lights at once, for example, during the Christmas Eve or Maundy Thursday services. We have one spare socket in the two boxes where it could be installed. We have also asked John Cusick, who did the work of taking out the front two pews, etc. to give us a quote on finishing the floors.

6. Nominating Committee. We have 4 openings on the Board. Three to replace Karen, Dennis, and Don, and one to fill the second year of Jane's term. The Officer's positions are all set through the end of the next fiscal year. We should also look into forming some a Pastoral Relations committee that would be responsible for, among other things, an annual evaluation of the pastor and the church. (Something we have not been very good at doing over the years.)

7. Pastoral Transition Planning. Rev Kev's gift of a "Love Saves" life preserver has arrived. We will be giving it to him at a reception on Saturday, May 27th from 4-6 pm in the Bradley Room. The church will also be paying for his healthcare benefits for the next three months.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the Board supports having the staff on site for Rev. Ray's beginning, and then let him work out who he wants to be present when. Al has also provided Rev. Ray with information on meetings and lists of people on various Ministry Teams, so that he can "hit the ground running".

8. Update on Safe Church Procedures. At the last Board meeting we had indicated that Julie and Roger would both need some time to work on this, so we will be talking about this next month. During that time, Julie, Roger and Al will also be addressing the issue of access to the Parish House during the weekdays when IRIS is there, and make sure the church procedures address those issues. It was suggested that Deb Riding from IRIS be included in those discussions.

9. Active/Inactive Member Criteria. Al proposed that the Board approve the wording that an "Active Member" be someone who has either participated in church activities during the preceding two years, or who has served on a Committee, Ministry Team, Board, or other organized church entity during the preceding two years, or who has donated time or money by pledge or otherwise to the church during the preceding two years, or who has requested in writing to the Clerk or Moderator to be re-instated as an active member following classification as an "inactive member" under these guidelines. (Requesting to be moved from inactive to active is written into the by-laws.) Also, if somebody is classified as inactive, then that person has to be notified within 10 days by the Clerk so that they can know to send that letter that they still want to be an active member. After some discussion, Chris Maursky made a motion to adopt the criteria for Active/Inactive Membership status that Al has sent to everyone on the Board. It was seconded by John Sawyer, and passed unanimously.

10. Queer Prom update. The date that has been set is Saturday, June 10. Al is a bit concerned that he hasn't heard much from the Pride Center regarding planning, but is trusting that it will all be done on time.

11. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 7p.m. on Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.