

July 2020 Church Council Meeting Notes

Present: Lisa Cary, Rosemary Lawton, Steve Smidowicz, Clint Cruse, Erin Milligan, Sue Herzberg, Cathy Rauch, Lynn Hunt, Rev. Mason

Absent:

Call to order and chalice lighting

Opening words

- Volunteer to read opening words next time -- Steve Smidowicz (September)

Quick check-in: Joys and concerns

Report of Policy Board Representative: Rosemary Lawton, Policy Board VP

The Policy Board approved the geographic extension of the micro-lending program that we have donated funds to through Holy Ground Collaborative on recommendation of the Social Responsibility Committee. The Policy for the Designated Collection Nominations was updated.

The discussion on 'who speaks for the congregation' was started and will be a main topic of discussion at the Board/Council Retreat.

Report of Minister: Rev. Kim Mason

There have been many recent pastoral concerns. Working on plans on how to do online/virtual programming for the fall (RE, Membership Class, etc)

Reports of Cluster Chairs:

- Steve Smidowicz – Stewardship Cluster
We are still waiting for end of year figures -- it takes a while to get all the figures together. It is still early to make any projections about this current figure year.
- Clint Cruse – Facilities Cluster
We have a plumbing issue in the RE wing and some roof concerns (probably needs patching). Parking lot needs to be resealed (instead of doing the whole repavement). It was decided to take funds from the Building Maintenance Fund for the resealing.
Facilities and Landscaping are planning on some work days.
Play Space group met and discussed options for installation with the funds that are available.
Plan has been modified somewhat, but will still be a fun and attractive space.
- Sue Herzberg – Programming Cluster
Sue further discussed the Play Space. The goal is to retain the elements that are more child friendly. Pavers in the design are being reduced and cutting back on some of the landscaping. Moved by Clint Cruse to allow funds held in the RE Reserve Fund to be expended for the project. Second by Steve Smidowicz. It was asked that an accounting of the expenses be provided on a regular basis. Approved.

- Erin Milligan – Growth & Engagement Cluster
Will be looking at way to connect with new members and visitors in a virtual environment. Groups in this area have been fairly quiet.
- Cathy Rauch – Outreach & Social Action Cluster
The Saturday Black Lives Matter witness event was interrupted by a small group. The organizers of the activity met to discuss and make a plan in case this happens in the future again.
Will be continuing the activity into the fall and supporting UU the Vote.
Partner Church is active. Has been unable to connect with Welcoming Congregations. Rosemary Lawton is helping with Social Responsibility for the time being.
The ARREST Project of Toward Justice is going very well with great attendance. She urged people to watch the videos even if they cannot participate.

Old business:

- Church COVID-19 task force recommendations: Clint Cruse or Kim Mason
Instructions are being put together for small groups, contractors, etc.
The next meeting is on Wednesday. The goal had been to open for small groups in August, but this will be discussed given the recent increase in cases.
- Holy Ground Collaborative area was expanded for grants
See Above.
- Church calendar
General discussion about worship options.

New business:

- Church Leadership Retreat
 - **Fri. Aug. 14, 7-8:30 pm** – something fun, review of church calendar, basic orientation for people new to Board/Council
 - **Sat. Aug. 15, 9:30-11:30 am** – introduction/refresher on policy governance, review of work started but left undone last year
 - **Sat. Aug. 15, 1-3 pm** – church mission (long-range planning and focus for this year) & engaging the congregation in the era of COVID
 - **Sun. Aug. 16, 1-3 pm** – Board Covenant, right relations & who speaks for the church (public statements about local issues)

- Tip sheet for holding virtual meetings – pass on to committee chairs
Lisa has created a tip sheet. Will distribute to the Council.
- Working with the 4 seminary students on programming

Eden Seminary has 4 UU seminary students. They need to complete a contextual education component. The students have asked to do a collaborative program in which they would work with the area congregations to do such things as to lead a class, lead a service, etc. Will be coordinated with the area ministers. We will have about 8 hours a week from this program.

Closing thoughts and adjournment