

## March 2021 Church Council Meeting Notes Agenda

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

**Absent:** Rev. Mason (written report attached),

**Call to order and chalice lighting**

**Quick check-in:** Joys and concerns

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

Main Policy Board points: working on Staff Recognition Fund Policy and revisions to Mission Statement. The Mission Statement will be put before the congregation for feedback and then approval at the annual meeting. General Assembly is entirely virtual this year and held from 6/23-27. Registration is \$200. Delegate expectations being developed by Margaret Weck.

**Report of Minister:** Rev. Kim Mason

There was general discussion about the proposal to the contest concerning equipment, etc in order to live stream the worship services in the fall. General support for moving forward with this new capability.

### Reports of Cluster Chairs:

- Steve Smidowicz – Stewardship Cluster
  - **Canvass** - Brief update on canvass numbers. About 50% of member pledge units have submitted their pledge.
  - **Budget** - Brief update on the budget. Still in the preliminary stage and a draft for approval will be ready shortly. Discussion around UUA Fair Share amount, personnel and facilities.
- Clint Cruse – Facilities Cluster
  - **Maintenance: plumbing solution**  
At this point we are planning to ground the pipes and continue to work on fixing the leak rather than abandoning the existing pipes. Ameren has been out and did some grounding work on their transformers that have caused issues in the area.  
**The Ash Tree** in the Memorial Garden has been taken down. The Landscape Committee is looking into a bell structure to place in the garden.
  - **Update on COVID-19 task force**  
The next communication about our hope to reopen the building in September was shared with the Council.
- Sue Herzberg – Programming Cluster
  - **Play space ground breaking event – April 18<sup>th</sup>**  
Work will proceed after the ceremony.  
**RE** - started having minecraft class at 9:00am for the children which is popular. A committee has been formed to search for a new DRE.
  - **Clark Lecture update**

The speaker who was being sought declined the offer. The need for a new committee was discussed and that this needs to be a priority in going forward.

- Erin Milligan – Growth & Engagement Cluster
  - Care and Concerns** has updated the information on their team members. They have updated the way they track people they are supporting. The leaders of the group are hoping to take pastoral care training.
  - The Knitting Ministry** is now the Makers Ministry.
  - Alliance** is still meeting weekly.
  - New Member** classes were held recently.
  - The Membership Committee** will be doing another round of phone calls.
  - Looking for input on what data different groups would like to have.

Cathy Rauch – Outreach & Social Action Cluster

**Toward Justice and Social Responsibility** are sharing minutes with one another.

**Partner Church** had about 30 people attend their film night fundraiser.

**Toward Justice** is sponsoring a virtual tour of an exhibit at the History Museum. Also working on a reconciliation project of potential descendents of slave holding families of the Church of the Messiah and the enslaved persons descendents.

Working on a second session of the ARREST program that will be focused on the STL area.

**Social Responsibility** is working on having a speaker from Arch City Defenders.

### Church calendar

- Next Newcomer Chat

### Old business:

- The completed committee/group definitions are in this Google folder:  
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17QU8kocoUzwBFrbKLTCOp5V9RSYtXcmw>

Rosemary Lawton and Lisa Cary have put all the forms in a google drive folder. Cluster chairs will be asked to look at group description and classification.

### New business:

- Vote on distribution of funds for:
  - 4 interns as part of joint gift with other area churches  
Moved to authorize the expenditure of \$200 for the ministerial student interns.  
(moved by Steve Smidowicz & seconded by Erin Milligan) Approved
  - Intern Sabrina for doing her contextual ed project at our church next year  
Moved to authorize funds from the Lewis-Wallis intern fund for Sabrina to be a student minister intern in the 2021/2022 programming year. \$3,600.00 total.  
(moved by Clint Cruse & seconded by Cathy Rauch) Approved.

## **Closing thoughts and adjournment**

Rev. Kim Mason's written report:

I am on vacation this week, so I won't be at the council meeting. Here are some notes as regards the dispersals from the Intern fund:

1 - The four congregations that have been working with the Eden students this year are going together on a gift. Each congregation is contributing \$200 towards the gift. We have approximately \$12,000 available for dispersal from the Lewis-Wallis Intern Fund. The board has approved our participation in this joint gift. All funds dispersed from the Intern Fund must be approved by the Church Council.

2 - Sabrina Trupia (pronouns they/them) has approached us about doing their third year contextual ed program with First Unitarian Church. As such Sabrina would be a student minister with the congregation for 8 hours a week doing the same kind of work they and the other students have done for us this past year, including leading worship, facilitating classes, providing pastoral care, etc. When a congregation agrees to take a student Eden asks that we pay them a small stipend of \$1,800 per semester, or \$3,600 for the program year. As noted above, we have the necessary funds in the Lewis-Wallis Intern Fund. We do not have an intern committee at the moment, however the last previous chair of the Intern committee, Joan Kindleberger gave her enthusiastic consent to bringing Sabrina on board next year. The board has approved the proposal as well. So now we need to church council to approve the dispersal of funds so that we can officially confirm Sabrina as our student minister for next year.

My minister's updates are that we have entered a contest to have a professional AV technician design a live-streaming system for us. In lieu of "winning" the contest, we have estimated that it will cost us about \$10,000 to equip the sanctuary for live-streaming. More updates on that process to come.

A congregational announcement will go out this week in regards to potentially opening. We want everyone to be able to safely participate in activities, so are our target reopening for worship is Ingathering/Water Communion in September. We may be able to reopen for small group meetings in the summer. More updates will come as the situation is clearer.