

Church Council. March 8, 2016, 7:00pm

In attendance: Todd Vetter, Kate Sturgis Mustard, Lynn Dehart, Lynne Devnew, Jim Garrett, Bob Mustard, Emily Kellar, Bruce Hadley , Jan Zabilski, Nancy von Stackelberg

Minutes were approved from the Feb. 22 meeting.

For those who were unclear, Kate briefly explained the concept of the new moderator system of having a Vice Moderator, Moderator and Post Moderator.

Nominating form drafts were passed out by Todd for review. The form allows for self nomination, except for the role of Deacon. This form will go in bulletin for the next several Sundays and will go out in an email blast. Folks will have a deadline of 4/17 to submit forms so the slate can be determined before the congregational meeting of 5/22.

Nominating committee will reach out to interested parties or those nominated by others to ask if they would like to be put on the slate. This procedure is important, per Todd, for transparency, openness and accessibility.

It was stated that the only committee which has the requirement of church membership is the Board of Deacons. Persons may indicate an interest in serving as a Deacon on the form and will be contacted to discuss.

The council looked over those people coming off of boards. It was noted that these people may put their names on again if they choose.

Bob mentioned that technically the next moderator should be one of the three that would be entering their second year. These people are Nancy von Stackelberg, Bruce Hadley and Lynn Dehart. Bruce agreed to be on the slate as the next moderator. Thank you Bruce! In response to the question of looking for a parliamentarian, Bruce indicated that he was comfortable with Robert's Rules of Order and that would not be necessary.

Bob suggested that we revise the slate from 15/16 to show who is staying in each position and which positions are open to go along with the nominating form. All agreed. It was agreed that the out-going moderator, Kate would do this. Todd will email the nominating form to Kate and she will update the slate and put the nomination form on the other side. Kate will email Patti to ask if Dave wishes to stay another term and verify whether Patti has decided to stay on as Chairperson.

Jim will communicate with Tom Brayer to see if he wants to stay on as the Chair of the Board of Trustees. Nancy would consider if no one else steps up. Jim mentioned the three distinct areas within in the board: Buildings and Grounds, Personnel, and Finance. Ky Kylander is currently handling the personnel function but we really need additional people in that area.

Kate also indicated that we need an official clerk. It was stated that if Nancy leaves to chair Trustees, the new council member would be asked to fulfill the role of clerk. This person writes up the minutes at council meetings and congregational meetings. Lynne Devnue offered to be the clerk on the slate. Thank you Lynne.

Stewardship this year was handled by Jim Garrett, Nancy von Stackleberg, Laura Hay and Rosemary McGreevy. We need someone to lead the Stewardship committee and it was stated that it must be an elected committee that works all year, not just a few months. Jim mentioned how crucial this committee is and how much work there is to be done in this area. The up coming change in staff presents us with an opportunity to do things differently with stewardship. Currently the secretary keeps all pledge info very securely but that presents a problem for the council to get a handle on useful pledging data. We need to find a way to analyze our pledging and non-pledging populations while still keeping confidentiality and to date this has been difficult. Leah Horton had tried to get a handle on some of this and Nancy offered to help going forward. Jim stated that the Stewardship committee should make decisions on procedures and the collector is to work closely with someone on that committee. The collector should not be the only one privy to this information.

The council suggested possible names of good candidates for various positions: Brad Sampson would be great for many roles as would Heather Edwards, particularly for the role of Deacon or Church Council. Heidi Hadley is interested in the Board of Trustees and has financial background. Gregory Rule might be a stewardship candidate. Aubrey Barr, Marc and Joan Barrington and Ted Sauer were other names suggested. Emily will highlight names in the directory of people to approach and send to Kate. Jim will inquire as to whether Cynthia Garrett has interest in a particular area.

The Interfaith Council has one person currently, but we have three slots so two more people could participate in this.

Historian is an open position that has not been filled for several years. This position records what has happened within the life of the congregation in the past year.

We do not need a Strategic Planning Board as this function is handled by the new council.

Emily stated that nominating usually looks to faithful attenders to find candidates but there is a good reason to also ask people who have lapsed to urge them back. Kate reminded us that we all have an opportunity to use the form to nominate people that we would like to be contacted.

Lynne mentioned that there is currently nothing in the PCCP bylaws about personnel/hiring practices at PCCP. Jim mentioned that PCCP personnel privacy verses transparency is a conversation that needs to be had. Bob moved that we table such discussion for the next meeting. There was brief discussion about the plausibility of handling both the Deacons and PCCP on the same night. After some discussion it was decided that there really wasn't another option so we will have both discussions on March 28th.

There was a brief discussion about fellowship. The Progressive Dinner was a great success. Everyone very much enjoyed it and hoped for more opportunities. Emily added that the Sunday evening services are also a success and serve a similar goal of bringing people together. We talked about a summer beach party, Fire and Ice, or another Progressive Dinner.

Bruce mentioned that on March 19th, we will have a bowling night at 5:00pm.

Jim put \$1600 in the advertising budget so that we can advertise our fellowship opportunities.

Emily mentioned that Matt Karriker, Chaplain at Brandeis, has started a new church called Agape, in Waltham. This church uses a model of dinner groups. People sign up to commit to dinner groups for the whole year. He is preaching here on April 3 and will come to the following Monday night's spaghetti dinner to discuss his exciting ideas about "hooking people in".

Emily also mentioned that she is having an April 3rd youth mission meeting to begin generating interest in the 2017 missions trip. Confirmation Sunday is May 1. This is a Sunday that usually has lots of visitors. It is not a bad idea to have pledge cards in the pews

On another stewardship note, Kate mentioned that most organizations recognize generous givers. Though it isn't appropriate to name amounts given by people we all agreed that it would be nice to thank all the people who pledged in the annual meeting booklet. No numbers attached, just a list of those who pledged. Nancy moved that we agree to place all the names of 2016 pledges and thank them for their pledge in the annual meeting booklet. Bruce seconded and all agreed. Motion carried.

Bob moved to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Zabilski

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