

**Minutes**  
**2016 Church Council Meeting**  
**December 21, 2016**  
**7:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

**Council Attendees:** Bruce Hadley (Moderator), Joan Barrington, Lynne Devnew, Laura Dunn for Patti MacLennan, Jim Garrett, Bob Mustard, Kate Sturgis, Drew Thawley (on phone), Nancy Von Stackelberg, Peggy O'Connor, and Emily Keller.

Council was called to order by Bruce at 7:08 pm and Peggy opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Council structure**

Pursuing our council restructuring discussion in November, Kate moved we try the 6 member council. Members of council will be the Chair of Deacons, Chair of Trustees, and the Clerk, plus 3 at large members - with pastors attending. The Moderator role changes from being a member of council to running congregational meetings and providing an expert link to the congregation.

Bob seconded.

During the discussion of the motion, several questions/concerns were addressed:

- The suggestion was made that there is a value to a board having an odd number to break ties, and then observed that we didn't really want decisions made based on having one more vote. We discussed the importance of working on a consensus model. It was observed that when there is not consensus, it would be important to involve others as appropriate to help with the decision making.
- We would be changing the council to be a strategy setting body; thus not the place where controversial decisions are made. It is the group with responsibility for ensuring activities are in line with the vision or mission of the church.
- Much of the work of the council will be done by task forces established by the council. Even the strategy work could be done by a task group or a strategy group. In some cases, the council will have a representative on the task groups.

Bob moved to move the question.

The decision was unanimous among those present, including Drew. Tom Brayer, Heather Edwards, and Patti MacLennan had voiced their approval in discussions before the meeting.

We next discussed who would be on the new council; for the remaining months before the Church annual meeting in May we thought it should be those already on the council. Those on the council because of their current positions will be: Chair of Deacons – Patti MacLennan, Chair of Trustees – Tom Brayer, and Clerk – Lynne Devnew.

Laura observed Patti's suggestion was that the remaining three seats with the three newest members of church council – Drew, Heather, and Joan.

We then discussed that Kate, Bob, and Sandy have terms ending in May and all of them think it is appropriate for them to leave now. Lynn DeHart has expressed a desire to be on CE instead of council; Nancy would prefer to lead Stewardship.

The three newest council members' thoughts were also considered. Drew said he is humbled to be considered and would serve if asked. Drew would finish out this stewardship campaign, but then leave the stewardship committee.

Heather has expressed a preference for serving on the search committee. This was not seen as a problem for several reasons. The search committee will not be very demanding in the next few months, and one of the council members will roll off in May. If selected for the search committee, Heather could be the member who rolls off council then. Or, as there should be a link between council and the search committee, she might serve as the council liaison.

Joan had expressed an interest in moving on to help make happen some other dreams for new projects within the church. When reminded of the value she has brought to so many council decisions, Joan agreed to be one of the council members in the new structure.

Thus, Nancy moved and Bob seconded that the three elected council members in the new structure would be Drew, Heather, and Joan. The vote was unanimous.

It was agreed that the larger, current council will meet in January as it remains responsible for the selection of the search committee.

### **Search Team**

Starting with lists supplied from many sources, including church committees and discussions with Bruce and Peggy, the list was reduced. Those who were suggested and have not personally noted their willingness to serve are on the attached list. Kate is drafting an email asking them whether they would serve if asked and sharing the search committee guidelines.

### **Round-table**

Nancy and Rosemary just found wonderful archival church history documents in our safe deposit box. We have other amazingly valuable documents being held in the church. A task force should be formed to recommend how these documents might be more appropriately archived. This will be a responsibility of the new council.

Jim reviewed finance reports. He anticipates the church will end the year with a \$210,000 surplus from both PCCP and pledges. Also, trustees are setting a percent of the coming year's pledges to go to Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM) via the Massachusetts Council of the UCC (MACUCC). The amount given will maintain a consistent percentage of the church pledge income as that donated in prior years when OCWM was pledged separately. Lynne asked them to look at combining dues into this package because this is the direction the MACUCC has

asked churches to take; it saves administrative effort for the church, the Pilgrim Association, and the MACUCC.

It was also noted that the division of the surplus should be voted upon at church budget meeting on January 29.

Our next council meeting will be January 23, the fourth Monday in January. All members of the existing, larger council are asked to attend. The current council expects the meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> will be the last for the Council as it is currently constructed. The newly formed Council discussed above is expected to be in place immediately following the church meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **Closing**

Emily closed the meeting with prayer.