

Minutes  
2016 Church Council Meeting  
May 23, 2016  
7:00 pm – 9:00 PM

Attendees: Bruce Hadley (Moderator), Todd Vetter (Senior Minister), Joan Barrington, Lynn DeHart, Lynne Devnew (Scribe), Heather Edwards, Jim Garrett (Treasurer), Patti MacLennan, Bob Mustard, Nancy Von Stackelberg, Sandy Von Stackelberg, Kate Sturgis, Drew Thawley, and Jan Zabilski

Todd opened the council meeting with prayer. As this was the first meeting of the new council, we began by briefly introducing ourselves.

Annual meeting review

We discussed several of the topic raised at the annual meeting.

- Communications challenges between council and church boards and committees were discussed at the annual meeting. We realized communications need to go in most directions. It was noted the boards and committee members can read council minutes and we can read their minutes. It was suggested that council liaisons to boards and committees should attend more of their meetings and we should encourage board and committee representatives to attend council meetings, particularly at the beginning of the year. Liaisons might also help the boards and committees when they are responsible for coffee hour.
- We discussed how we will create our strategic plan – noting options include top down, bottom up, or a combination. We noted the challenge of engaging the congregation; it was noted that some in the congregation might really just be thinking “council, go run this.” It was suggested we might use part of the church service time for congregational meetings to involve more people. We reminded ourselves that the interim will have this set of skills.
- We spent some time discussing what it means/feels like to be active and engaged. We don’t set expectations. People have a range of experiences influencing their understanding and people’s (and churches’) situations have changed radically over the past fifty years. Our strategy (ends and goals, not means) can help us all understand what it looks like to be a busy, engaged, active person in this church; and what it means to be an active church. We’ll have to consider as part of the strategy how to educate and support people in pursuing our goals. The suggestion was made that, much as we have had stewardship moments, we might have moments in the service where people talked about what their life in the church is like, what it is like for them to be involved. In selecting people to share experiences it would be important to realize that the experiences are different for people in different generations.
- Todd noted that governance relates to many of the topics discussed above, including both communications and strategy. He suggested that one of the greatest resources related to these topics is Dan Hotchkiss’s book *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership*.

Assignment of Liaisons

Many council members have “natural” relationships to other boards and committees:

- Jim Garrett is treasurer and thus attends all Trustee meetings

- Patti MacLennan is Chair of the Board of Deacons
- Lynne Devnew is Chair of the PCCP Board
- Nancy Von Stackelberg and Drew Thawley will be working on the stewardship committee
- Nancy Von Stackelberg serves on the endowment committee
- Bob Mustard is the leader of the Men's Group

Other council member assignments as liaisons:

- Sandy Von Stackelberg – Music
- Lynn DeHart – Christian Education
- Kate Sturgis – Outreach
- Heather Edwards – Hospitality
- Joan Barrington – Kay Drake/Interfaith Council

### Interim Minister Committee Update

Kate stated those of us who provided input to the profile were very helpful. The Team consolidated the input and sent the profile they prepared to Don Remick. They expect to have the names of some candidates by the end of this week. The Interim Minister Committee is scheduled to meet each Tuesday night (they might not meet on 5/24 unless they receive information on candidates by then). They will bring us a candidate when they have selected one.

### Administrative position update

Todd noted that an offer has been made. There is some confusion over the number of days per week and hours per day. The concern is flexibility; if it were to be determined one person could do the administrator, secretary, and collector position it would need to be a 40 hour a week job. The current candidate, who is a very strong candidate, is only willing to work 4 days/35 hours per week. Todd noted that Cathy, Terri, and Emily each advises against combining the positions, and Todd isn't sold that combining them is a good idea either. The concerns are coverage, including vacations. The sum of the current jobs is 54 hours per week. During the transition, Rosemary will be working as a consultant for 20 hours per week.

### Celebrations

We briefly reviewed plans for the brunch honoring Todd on June 5 and for Cathy and Terri on June 12.

### Financial Report

Jim Garrett presented the financial reports. They are filed separately.

### Pastor's Report

We reviewed plans for the month of June. Todd will be preaching at all of the services during June. On June 5, the only "special" activity during the services will be an announcement by Bruce of the brunch following the service. On June 12, there will be a brief celebration during the service and a reminder of the reception. On June 26 Don Remick will be with us to conduct the release portion of the service.

### Council schedule

Council meetings will normally be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month. These include June 27, July 25, August 22, September 26, October 24, November 28, and December 19 (the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday is December 26, the legal holiday). We realize we need to meet during the summer as we will have a new interim minister then.

Sandy VonStackelberg closed the meeting with a prayer.

Prepared by: Lynne Devnew, clerk

-