

Minutes

Kent United Church of Christ Council Meeting (in person)

August 24, 2021

Present: Jaime Baughman (past moderator), Karen Carmany, Glenn Hanniford, Barb Hanniford, Donna Hess, John Hetrick, Sue Otterson (vice moderator), Jackie Peck, Jeff Roeger (moderator), Julie Wallace

Jeff opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m. Donna gave an opening prayer, and Karen read our mission statement. Jeff explained that he had asked Sue to lead the meeting to give her experience prior to becoming moderator.

Minutes Approval

The minutes of our June meeting were approved.

Celebrations!

Time Capsule. Jaime has gathered most materials for our time capsule and had displayed them in the chapel for us to view. We recommended the year 2050 as the time it would be dug up. We thought that the best way for members to see what was included was via a slide show of the contents. Current plans call for the time capsule to be sealed and buried on September 12.

NAACP Office. Room 112 has been cleared out and readied for use as the new NAACP office. John explained that he thinks a memorandum of understanding will be needed to cover such items as insurance. He will talk with Jim Silver about this. The MOU will be kept as simple as possible. Move-in will begin when the church reopens.

Pastor Kim, Amanda, & DJ. Congratulations to the new family!!

WISE Conversations

Jackie announced that there will be an opportunity September 8, 7 pm., via Zoom to provide feedback on the draft WISE Covenant. She asked us to share this with our ministries.

Treasurer's Report

Sally could not attend the meeting but had emailed us some comments about the report. She said:

While the July **pledged income** was a disappointing 72% of the budgeted amount, pledges are on track for August with \$18,077 of the \$21,130 budgeted received as of 8-18-21. This **does not** include the activity from our last Sunday Service. Almost the entire (\$6,556) shortfall for the month can be attributed to the low amount of pledged income.

In July we only received 76% of our budgeted income. July expenses were under budget. Expenses were 91% of the budgeted amount. We received reimbursement for \$18.75 of bank fees from donors.

Rev. Nagy has not provided her enrollment forms for her pension and life insurance to me for submission. We are not required to pay for coverage until the forms are submitted and approved. Coverage is not retroactive so there is no expense for the church until her enrollment is accepted. This was explained to Rev. Nagy when I provided her the enrollment forms and I have sent her a reminder notice.

Parking space income has been coming in. We have received \$1300 in parking income as of 8-18-21.

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It was suggested that we continue to emphasize online giving during worship services.

Pastor Amy's Report

Pastor Amy was away this week but had shared a written report that highlighted worship, outreach and social justice, WISE, pastoral care, faith formation, personnel, her wider church engagement, her objectives for the year, and more.

Ongoing Business

Governance Lead Team Update

Sue shared that she is in the process of modifying a chart that Rev. Karjian had given us; Sue will add our own ministries and committees. Rev. Karjian will be preaching on October 3 (tentative date) and follow it with a program with small groups to explain the proposed governance changes. Council will get more information at our September meeting.

Opening Church Discussion

Jeff led this portion of the meeting. The COVID advisory group is meeting August 30, and Jeff was seeking input from each Council member prior to this meeting. We individually shared our thoughts about reopening.

Comments and considerations included the following:

- If we are to resume on September 12 as originally planned, there is a short timeline to make decisions and to communicate plans to the congregation.
- Council members supported resuming in-person worship with restrictions. We recognize that many churches in our area now have indoor worship services. But we also recognize that the Delta variant poses greater risks.
- We need to follow CDC and other guidance as we develop our protocols.
- We strongly encourage those who attend to be vaccinated if they are eligible.
- We supported requiring all attendees to wear masks, regardless of vaccination status.
- We would need plans for children. Would they stay in worship with their parents? Go outside for a portion of the service? Other?
- Our sanctuary space is beneficial, given the high ceiling, the ability to open windows, and a large exhaust fan that we can leave running.
- We will continue our live streaming option and encourage anyone not comfortable returning to indoor worship to take advantage of this.
- We recognize that Julie Swango and Felicia Lumpkin have provided extraordinary technical support for much longer than any of us ever expected, and they are at a point of needing to be done soon.
- Congregational and choral singing will be a concern indoors. We will need to follow current guidance and may need to begin without music.
- We would like guidance from the task force for different scenarios, such as for outside groups using church facilities.

Jeff pledged to be prompt and proactive in the coming days as we make and communicate decisions about reopening.

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New Business

Stewardship

Karen shared that the fall stewardship invitation theme is "Rooted in Love." The campaign will begin on Sunday, October 17 and conclude on Dedication Sunday, November 14. She will be seeking input from ministries soon for the Mission Spending Plan.

Budget

Sue will have a Budget Committee meeting soon and will be asking for input for our 2022 budget. The question of in-kind donations was raised. Often, ministry members make in-kind donations rather than seeking reimbursement for purchases. We should consider tracking these donations in order to have a better idea of the actual cost of an activity.

Also, Jeff reinforced Pastor Amy's past encouragement to seek grant funding to help support our mission.

For the Good of the Group

Karen commended those involved in designing our new *Messenger*. It looks great!

Jeff closed the meeting at 8:30 p.m. with a benediction.

Our next regular meeting will be **Tuesday, September 28** at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Hanniford, Clerk