

Minutes
Kent United Church of Christ Council Meeting (zoom)
October 26, 2021

Present: Jeff Roeger (moderator), Sue Otterson (vice moderator), Pastor Amy, Karen Carmany, Sally Saltzman, Barb Werstler, John Hetrick, Becky Dunlap, Jackie Peck, Julie Wallace, Donna Hess, and Kathy Robinson (clerk pro tem).

Jeff opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Julie gave the opening prayer, and John read our mission statement.

Minutes Approval

The minutes from both the September 28 and special October 7 meetings were approved.

Celebrations!

Purchase of A-V Equipment There is much to be excited about this purchase from Woodsy's. We have strengthened our relationship with Paul and kept both the sale and the training local, and we will be provided with many capabilities above what we have now. After others are trained on the new system, this will relieve Julie, Felicia, and Kim of their Sunday morning duties.

Impact of our Church Services To be noted, especially, are the diversity of these services and the number of people who have been participating. Laity Sunday was especially moving, e.g., Brenda Schneider's and other member's reflections.

Update on NAACP Entering the Life of the Church Sue will communicate with Dr. Nelson about a move-in date which will be after November 6 when the carpet is installed and the MOU is signed by both parties. Dr. Nelson has the memorandum of understanding and agreement and will sign soon. John noted that the electrician's work can be done after the move-in: more outlets are needed. The main door lock has to be replaced as it is still just a classroom lock. Paul Sellman has been installing the cables for phone and internet. Air conditioning will be needed downstairs in the summer months.

Sally mentioned that other funds will cover the costs until we receive grant money. She and Leah are working quite well together but do have a learning curve as they both get up to speed on the workings of our financial systems.

Pastor Amy's Report

Amy went over the highlights of her written report. She faces some unusual challenges since we have been in the sanctuary two months now. She is asking, Who is my congregation? Who are they when I don't see so many of them? What is attendance? What is worship? We've become an asynchronous community- what does that mean? How to use it to plan for future church services. Such questions require our prayerful discernment.

Stewardship means finances, time, and talent. Saying 'yes' to leadership, serving as officers and committee members. "How are you called?" How is the Spirit moving you? Think about tithing-encourage discussion of this in ministries/ committees.

Personnel. Leah has been learning her new tasks in working with Sally and seems to be enjoying the process. Pastor Amy has concerns about Pastor Kim going to part-time, filling the spaces that she leaves, especially with the youth. Youth participation has been declining in numbers, with most citing school work/functions. How to re-engage them?

Treasurer's Report

Sally reports that she and Leah are working well together and are establishing their routine.

Leah is very committed to improving the current system. Third quarter statements have been sent out once, computer glitches were found, and reports will be corrected and resent. September giving was down, with \$9,000 less than budgeted, and \$8,000 down in pledged income. She reported a loss of \$10,766 for the month. September is not as encouraging as August was.

Ongoing Business

1) The Covid team met Monday Nov. 25 to review our current safety policy. The main question was "What would trigger us having to quickly pivot to on-line services?" Felicia read from Ohio's CDC report its criteria for such a move.

"1) In the event of a new strain which is more transmissible or more lethal, or if the current vaccine is less effective, 2) if there is more exposure at church within 10 days affecting a good number of people."

Jeff made a motion to add this to our current Covid policy; Sue seconded. Discussion followed during which Becky felt that for the safety of the congregation, a third factor should be added- the decision should be left to the discretion of the pastor, moderator, music director, and council-at-large member.

Motion was made to add the following wording to our Covid policy: *"We would quickly change to on-line services 1) in the event of a new strain that is more transmissible or more lethal, or the current vaccine is less effective, 2) if more exposure at church within 10 days affects a good number of people, and 3) a committee of the pastor, moderator, music director, and council-at-large member should make such a decision.*

Motion was passed unanimously. Jeff thanked the Covid Team for their time dealing with this and for their recommendation.

2) John mentioned that he has been approached by congregation members who have been "cold" during our in-person services. Will doors and windows be left open in the winter? Yes, according to our COVID policy. Are there are ways to get heat into the sanctuary and still maintain air-flow? The main problem in our building is lack of ventilation; we do not have proper air filtration. Council might discuss what a reasonable temperature for the sanctuary might be during colder months.

New Business

Nominations for future leaders: Jeff suggested having a Council round table discussion (1-1 1/2 hr) via Zoom to discuss the questions Pastor Amy raised in her report. How do we proceed into 2022? This round table would be held in early November and include Jen Case, chair of Nominating and other committee chairs not on Council.

For the Good of the Group

Donna on behalf of the Social Justice Ministry encouraged people to purchase and display our anti-racism sign *Racism Is a Sin*. A table will be set up for this near the elevators.

John noted that fall clean-up is Saturday, November 6 from 9-noon.

Jackie asked about new members joining this month.

Karen encouraged all chairs to discuss Stewardship, our generosity campaign, and tithing with their ministry members.

Pastor Amy told us that annual reports are due to Leah in the office by **Wednesday, December 15**.

The annual meeting will be **Sunday, January 23** after worship.

Jeff adjourned the meeting with a short benediction at 8:16 p.m.

Our next regular Council meeting will be **Tuesday, December 7, 2021** at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Robinson, clerk pro tem