

Minutes for March 8, 2022

CCUMC Church Council

UMC Mission: Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. A disciple is one who knows Christ, is growing in Christ, serving Christ and sharing Christ.

CCUMC Mission: A Bible centered community growing our faith and sharing the love of Jesus Christ with our neighbors.

Attending: Keith and Nancy Luscombe, Gaelle McLoud, Martha Burbridge, Marsha Mason, Garnet Olson, Gary Picard, Kevin Hunt, and Jennifer Wheeling

Keith Luscombe called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

Opening Devotionals by Kevin Hunt who shared some information about himself and his interests.

Kevin's favorite hymn is "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

Gary Picard made a motion to accept the February 1, 2022 minutes without corrections, the motion was seconded by Kevin Hunt and passed unanimously.

Committee Reports were sent out ahead of the meeting.
Reports and Updates given at the meeting:

Pastor's Report : Pastor John is currently on vacation. The leadership retreat will be held on March 26th, with a possible follow up date of April 9th.

Treasurer : There was a mistake on the most recent Treasurer's report which was that the worker's comp. insurance was listed as 415.00 and it is actually 45.00.
There was a discussion about whether to contribute to UMCOR a certain amount towards relief for the people of Ukraine. Kevin Hunt made a motion to contribute 500.00 to UMCOR to go to Ukraine, and to re-assess in the future whether to send a further donation. Gary Picard seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Trustees : Gary Picard reported that the Trustees are holding off on some church projects and repairs because they are waiting for the final cost of the snow clearance fee to be realized. The elevator in the church is now fixed and awaiting re-inspection. The fire alarm system in the church failed, and the Trustees are following up. The Trustees welcomed Judy Fortin to their group, and she and Kevin Hunt are working on the Trustees Report, which will be done by the end of the week.

UMM : Not active

Ministry Team : Marsha Mason reported that Bible study has started again on Tuesdays. In addition, there will be a movie shown at the church this coming Saturday March 12th.

Gaelle McLoud reported that Kayla P-K and Gaelle M are working on a mission project, which is to collect donations for and then put together Hygiene Kits to be donated to the Worcester Fellowship Thursday Cafe on April 14th. There will be a kit party at CCUMC on April 10th after the church service to put the kits together. The Oxford United Methodist Church is also working on this mission project with CCUMC.

Lay Leader : Kevin Hunt reported that he is the contact person for pastoral care this week while Pastor John is on vacation.

Kevin Hunt further reported that the church is trying to figure out plans for the cross-walk on Good Friday and for the Easter Sunrise Service. These programs used to be done in conjunction with the Charlton Federated Church. However, the Federated Church is not planning on joining with CCUMC this year for these programs, although Kevin Hunt stressed that they are still welcome. CCUMC will continue to work on the logistics of planning for the Cross Walk and Sunrise Service. Gary Picard suggested asking other churches to join us for these events, such as St. Joseph's.

Right Start : There was a discussion on the mask policy for the church. Garnet Olson and Gary Picard expressed that they felt that the church was ready to make mask wearing optional. Marsha Mason also agreed that it was time to make masks optional. There was also a further discussion about the necessity of keeping the windows open in the sanctuary during worship. It was decided to leave the window discussion for a future time.

Garnet Olson made a motion to make mask wearing while in the church building, including for Sunday worship, optional and to revisit the discussion again if the need arises due to a covid spike. Martha Burbridge seconded the motion. All council members voted yes, except Nancy Luscombe who abstained, and so the motion passed.

A discussion followed about the most efficient way to let church members know the new mask policy. It was decided that Nancy Luscombe would write an email announcing the policy, and then contact Hannah Darling in order to send it out.

There was another discussion about returning to pre-covid food regulations within the church building. Gary Picard expressed that the only guidelines the church needs to follow with regards to food preparation are the serve safe guidelines. Kevin Hunt spoke about the guidelines currently being used in the restaurant business. Kevin Hunt made a motion to restore food service guidelines in the church building to pre-covid regulations, the motion was seconded by Nancy Luscombe, and passed unanimously.

The Council hopes that this will mean the return of normal coffee hour, colations, church dinners, the Community Cafe, Communion, church events, and church family gatherings in private homes.

SPRC : Garnet Olson reported that Pastor John's Ordination is going to be this fall, and that he is currently going through trainings in preparation.

Garnet Olson also reported that SPRC compiled a policy for the thrift store, and she went over some of the highlights with the Council. The Council agreed that the best way to make thrift store volunteers aware of the policy is to post it in the thrift store itself, and also to email it to volunteers.

UMW : Nancy Luscombe reported that the CCUMC UMW is going to be hosting the Commonwealth West UMW District Meeting on April 2, 2022. Nancy Luscombe also shared that Sandy Dam did the program at the last UMW meeting. The next meeting is set for March 28, 2022, and the possible program will be about the Holy Land.

Lay Leadership : Garnet Olson reported that herself, Renee Graveline, and Dr. Robin McFee attended lay leadership classes recently.

Old Business:

Reminder : Leadership videos need to be sent to Hannah Darling for the church website.

Church Sign : There was a brief discussion about purchasing a new sign for the church. Kevin Hunt reported that the cost of purchasing a new sign, especially an electric one, was out of the range of the current church budget. The only way to currently receive a new sign would be through a memorial gift.

Safe Sanctuary Policy : Keith Luscombe read the amended version of the Safe Sanctuary Policy from the DS, which was procedure #9. Kevin Hunt made a motion to re-approve the Safe Sanctuary Policy with the edits from the DS, the motion was seconded by Marsha Mason and passed unanimously.

Building Use : A reminder to record the use of the church building, and the length of time of use, on the large calendar by the office.

Lease : Gary Picard reported that he is working on writing a new lease for the tenants of the parsonage.

New Business:

Visioning Letter : Kevin Hunt reported that responses from the letter that Pastor John sent to the congregation regarding the visioning meetings for the church, and human sexuality conversations, were starting to come in and be fielded. Comments and concerns of the congregation will be considered.

Single Board Model : Martha Burbridge reported that she attended a Zoom meeting discussing the single board model for church government. Martha Burbridge expressed that the result of the meeting was that the single board model would probably not work well for our church, and so there was no further discussion.

Request : Sandy Dam is the certified lay minister at George Whitefield UMC. Sandy Dam is required to undergo a psychological assessment in order to continue serving the UMC. The total cost of the assessment is 650.00. Sandy Dam requested that CCUMC pay 325.00 in order to help out with the cost of the assessment. The Council had a discussion about whether to pay the amount requested. Nancy Luscombe made a motion to grant Sandy Dam the 325.00 for the

psychological assessment, the motion was seconded by Kevin Hunt, and passed unanimously. The treasurer Martha Burbridge will take care of the payment.

Closing:

Joys and Concerns were shared privately among the Council members.

Marsha Mason volunteered to open the next meeting with a devotional story about herself.

Nancy Luscombe offered a closing prayer by the lay leader Ruby L. Blake.

Respectfully Submitted: Gaelle McLoud

The next meeting is Tuesday April 5, 2022 at 6:30pm