



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

DEACONS

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 5th, 2019

Attendance:

Yes	No		Yes	No	
■		Peg Birk (2020)	■		Gloria Wallace (2019)
■		Claire Colliander (2021), <i>Treasurer</i>	■		Greg Zoidis (2019)
■		Ed Curtiss (2019)	■		Paula Northwood, <i>Acting Senior Minister</i>
■		Katie Dillon (2021), <i>Clerk</i>	■		Beth Faeth, <i>Minister for Congregational Care</i>
■		David Homans (2020)	■		Seth Patterson, <i>Director of Spiritual Formation and Theater</i>
■		Claire Kolmodin (2020)	■		Dan Wolpert, <i>Interim Minister</i>
■		Brian Siska (2021), <i>Moderator</i>			

GUESTS: Allison Campbell Jensen

Actions Taken:

Item 1. Minutes of the previous meeting electronically approved.

Item 2: Motion to amend the Governing Policy 2.13 to create a standing nominating committee as follows: The Nominating Committee is to be a standing committee comprised of 2 Deacons, 2 Members of the LC, a minister, and 2 At Large Members of the Congregation. The non-minister members of the committee will be organized into two classes of three people who will each serve for 2 years. The classes will be staggered by one year. The Nominating Committee will be replenished by the Committee as part of the nominations process. The motion passed.

Agenda and Minutes

Meditation (Paula)

Paula shared an excerpt from *Canoeing the Mountains* by Tod Bolsinger.

Reports

Ministers:

Paula presented a written report. She noted that there is a new normal that people are adjusting to, some more easily than others; this is primarily related to the changes within the church and some of the unknowns. Ministers are helping to calm and reassure people that we are doing fine and we will get through this. The conversations around the embroideries, including conversations with Needlers, continue and we will need to be sensitive to the perspectives of all. The Budget process is in the works. An Outreach Coordinator has been hired to start in March.

Beth shared about 2 new member classes (first of which was this past Sunday). Beth has been working with our guest preachers. Beth is working with the Gun violence prevention group and the Immigrant Welcoming group. Pastoral Care has been centered around home visits and hospital visits

Dan provided a written report prior to the meeting. Dan highlighted some ideas related to the nominating committee and two of his upcoming classes.

Seth shared that our preschool renter, Academia Elze, is expanding to add two additional rooms; the relationship between our organizations is going well and the school is growing quickly. Racial Justice Initiative is running fast and is figuring out how their group will be working both internally and with boards. Sundays at 10 is different each week including fluctuating attendance at classes and informal fellowship in Jones Commons. The structure and process of renting the theater is changing and it is going well; we are working to diversify the stories and storytellers on the stage. "Invisible Stories Made Visible" will be happening in the fall with partner organizations, which will include stories often unheard such as homeless student perspectives and immigrant perspectives. Church School continues to grow and we are giving youth chances for leadership. Wednesday night Confirmation is going well and right now they are learning about exploring their spirituality.

Moderator (Brian):

Brian has been spending most of his time on the Search Committee. We as the Deacons select the Search Committee slate to take to the Congregation for approval. Brian has asked for a lot of input from this group and others for ideas of people who would be good for the Search Committee. Brian noted he feels good about options for potential members.

Treasurer (Claire C.):

Claire shared documents with the group prior to the meeting and during the meeting she shared a presentation to give highlights of specific finance-related topics. Claire shared an update on the 2014 Capital Campaign; we still have about \$420,000 that has not been spent (plans for that are splitting it between Outreach and Growth). The December financials show that revenue right now is from incoming pledges (ahead of budget year-to-date but not quite to the levels of one year ago), other congregational giving, and rent (above budget and above last year). On the expenses side Personnel is down from LY and other expenses are down, but may be due to timing. The statements overall look good. Interestingly, younger demographics tend to do less pledging but do regular giving instead. For the 2019-2020 budget, Paula has laid out some baseline assumptions and the Board of Finance and Administration is working on the details (along with Annette). Claire also gave an overview of the non-operating funds (what is not captured on the operating statement, as not all revenue and expenses are captured on the operating statement); this includes capital campaign, bequests, donor-restricted contributions, and the expenses paid with these funds.

Nominating committee

The Deacons would like to create a standing committee, rather than a committee that is created each year, with the intention that committee members can be looking for possible nominees throughout the church year; it would include two at-large members that are not part of Leadership Council or Deacons to improve connection to other groups within the congregation.

A motion was moved by Ed, seconded by Peg: Amend the Governing Policy 2.13 to create a standing nominating committee as follows: The Nominating Committee is to be a standing committee comprised of 2 Deacons, 2 Members of the LC, a minister, and 2 At Large Members of the Congregation. The non-minister members of the committee will be organized into two classes of three people who will each serve for 2 years. The classes will be staggered by one year. The Nominating Committee will be replenished by the Committee as part of the nominations process.

Motion passed

Recap Leadership Day 2

The group discussed some of the highlights of the meeting and some of the ways it could have been more fulfilling of the original intention to help the leadership of the church learn more about Racial Justice language and meanings. An acknowledgement was made that among members of the Congregation and among leaders there is a wide spectrum of understanding on the topic of Racial Justice, Racism, White Privilege, and White Supremacy. The Deacons talked about the conversation around the embroideries which took place at Leadership Day and concern was expressed that

there seemed to be a forgone conclusion about what should happen to the embroideries. There was clarification that the Leadership Council is tasked with the way forward on the embroidery issue, that they are looking for input, but that no decisions have been made yet. There is hurt being expressed by both those who love the embroideries and those who helped create them as well as hurt being expressed by those who are hurt by the imagery depicted and the church's response. The group agreed that there needs to be more discernment and discussion around the topic. Dan made a suggestion of possibly having a year "Sabbatical" where the church would undergo more work around the embroideries and during that time they would not be displayed. The group agreed that this discussion is a real opportunity for our membership to go through some deeper processes before coming to a conclusion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Next Meeting Preview

Recommend officers to nominating committee.

Monitoring GP 4.5, 4.6

Next Meeting

March 5th, 2019

*Respectfully submitted,
Katie Dillon, Clerk*