

Consistory Minutes
August 6, 2014

Those in Attendance:

Whit Wheeler, President;
Lisa Peterson, Secretary;

Marya Hynes, Vice President;
Pastor Kristen Curlee;

Absent:

Judy Norton, Treasurer;
Pastor Carolyn Richar

Peter Rich, Trustee;

Guest:

Bill Graver

President Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Pastor Kristen led us in devotions.

Minutes:

Marya moved and Lisa seconded that the minutes of the June 1, 2014 meeting be approved as amended. Motion was passed unanimously.

Electronic Votes: There were no electronic votes during this period.

Finances:

No report.

Updates on Old Business:

Painting Status: Painting in the “tween” room was not finished with the rest of the painting project due to a water damaged spot. The group planned to address this during a property committee work day to take place the day before the start of Sunday school.

Door: There is no current follow-up.

New Business:

Marriage Equality: Two listening sessions have taken place and there has been individual outreach to members of the congregation who did not attend either of the sessions. The church's original Open and Affirming statement was on the bulletin board near the church office and it looks like we will be able to simply add a phrase on marriage equality to the existing statement. We will hold a few more meetings in the fall to discuss language, then refer the matter to Spiritual Council.

Property Committee: The group discussed whether we should consider creating a property manager position as part of the church's staff. We agreed that we should pose the question to the finance committee of whether it is possible to add any positions. Kristen noted that a current system of volunteer administrative support is working well because the volunteers already know the context of their tasks and bring some particular expertise. We currently lack such expertise on the property side, which is consuming a growing amount of the pastor's time. It is unclear what direction we want to head on the property, and we need someone with relevant experience to sort through the recommendations from Kristen Wheeler's report and identify priorities. Kristen noted that it may be difficult to find someone for the very limited number of hours we would be intending to hire, and suggested that she could talk to the Unitarian Universalist church (or another church that may have a part-time employee) to see about sharing an employee. We also discussed a property manager model, which had been explored previously but not produced results, in part because the church is not incorporated. Sam Le is currently looking into incorporation for the church.

There is a puddle in the choir room which has been a problem throughout the summer. Kristen said she would like to invest in a couple dehumidifiers and large air fresheners to put in that room. She has also noted that there are marks on a pipe in the bathroom off fellowship hall where children may be standing on the pipe to wash their hands. She will bring in a step stool for children to use there. We need to clean the room to the right of the stage in fellowship hall. A number of items were moved in there during painting and now need organization. Kristen will send a message to the Property Committee on what we are trying to do and seek authorization for these expenses.

Stewardship: Stewardship Sunday will be October 12. Letters will be sent to members of the congregation toward the end of August. There will be 2 or three different letters for different populations. We will also be having stewardship moments during worship in the weeks leading up to the 12th. The Committee chairs will meet with Judy after September 30 to put together a budget.

Community Worship: There were 80 people at the service in Bethel on August 3. Planning is underway for the service at Lubber Run on August 24. A Survey Monkey will be sent out the last week of August to more systematically gather feedback. People have particularly

appreciated the joint choir. The pastors have discussed the possibility of worshiping together every fifth Sunday. They've also talked about having the community choir rotate through the different churches, although this would likely not be viable for Bethel given our reliance on Voices of Bethel members for other roles during services. Finally, they have explored holding four joint services through the year, for Thanksgiving, Blue Christmas, Good Friday, and Earth Day.

Senior Pastor's Report:

Kristen will be away for the Next Generation Leadership Initiative September 22 – 26. Angie will be away September 14 and October 12; Donna will play on both these days. We will have special music on September 7 and October 12. Kristen has developed the worship plan for the year. She would like us to try to find a large, unbreakable nativity set to place on the altar during advent. She envisions a child processing in with a piece each week. It was suggested that if Carolyn is traveling to El Salvador before Christmas, we try to find out if someone near the clinic would be able to make a set.

Kristen advised that she would like to buy a fire blanket, as she plans using more candles as well as flash paper during services.

Associate Pastor's Report:

No report.

The next consistory meeting is scheduled for September 28 at 11:30 A.M.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa J. Peterson, Secretary