

KVCC Church Council Meeting Minutes

November 22, 2022

Present: Charlotte Lichtenberg, Dre Roebuck, Anne Runyon Hurd, Naj Wikoff, Nancy McArthur, Fritz Sabbow, Pam Gothner, Shawn LaMarche, and Deborah Mitchell.

Debby opened the meeting at 5:00 PM. This meeting was held at KVCC.

Opening Prayer: Debby led the group in a quiet reflective meditation – The Way It Is.

Quorum: We had a quorum at today’s meeting.

Approval of Last Month’s Meeting: Naj made a motion to approve the last month’s meeting minutes, and Anne seconded the motion. A discussion followed, and the motion was passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee: Nancy provided the Council with the most recent Finance Committee Report:

Finance Committee Report

November 17, 2022

Attending:

Nancy McArthur	Elizabeth Davidson Derr
Larry Shippis	Shawn LaMarche
Debby Rice	Fritz Sabbow

STEWARDSHIP REPORT: Elizabeth Davidson Derr and Debby Rice

The following is a summary of the results from the current Stewardship Drive, where we are soliciting pledges for 2023. See Table below.

- **Total and per capita pledges increased significantly. The number of pledgers is down from last year (so far). This could change between now and the end of the year.**
 - The total number of givers is based on Little Green Light information. (if a check comes in, it is logged by name. Cash is not included.)
 - The total number of pledgers is based on envelopes (this year) or cards (last year) returned with pledge information. This allows for a comparison of one year to the next.
 - The dollars are pledges listed on those cards. They are tallied on the row called sum.

	2021 Pledge Drive	2022 Pledge Drive
SUM	\$44,910	\$52,375
# Pledgers	51	40
Average Pledge/person	\$881	\$1,309
TOTAL Givers	79	79

% Pledgers	65	51
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Debby noted that a year of working with Little Green Light has caused her to question the need for the many different ways we account for members and donations. In 2023, we will review the use of this program as well as Instant Church Directory and other databases used to catalogue members.

The Committee expressed thanks for the pledge drive which helped all of the congregation examine the meaning of the congregation and its work to them.

BOOKKEEPING TRANSITION Nancy McArthur

The move to Richard S. Beam CPA and Associates has occurred.

- Payroll will all be Direct Deposit via ADP going forward. Liz has been great in this transition adapting our process to the new arrangement.
- All other bills are being paid from the office currently as the bill paying feature of our online banking is currently being arranged by Champlain National.
- The committee discussed the need for a credit card capability for staff and purchases versus the current risk laden and unworkable debit card arrangement. Nancy will discuss this with Champlain National. Following the issuance of the credit cards, the petty cash account will be consolidated with the main checking account.

ENDOWMENT: The Rev. Frederica Mitchell Legacy Fund amounted to \$1,355M as of November 18, 2022, and the Committee agreed to revise the draw using a three-year average formula from the endowment at its January meeting.

TREASURER ABSENCE: As Nancy will be in Thailand from 1/25/23 to 2/17/23. Elizabeth Davidson will fulfill my Treasurer responsibilities such as approving expenses and executing transactions.

TAX LETTERS: Donors requesting tax letters will receive those letters in January before the Treasurer's departure.

NEXT MEETING: December 12, 2022 at 4:00 PM via Zoom.

Worship Committee, October 7, 2022:

The Worship Committee's next meeting is January 6, 2023.
There is no report for November.

Manse Discernment Group:

The manse group determined that the best short-term plan is to rent the apartment while any site long term plan is developed. The immediate goals are:

1. to provide achievable housing to a tenant, and
2. to earn revenue for the Church for operating expenses.

The Manse Short Term Project is complete. We now have renters moving in late November.

The following volunteers joined to complete the project:

- Elizabeth Davidson Derr Ellen Dubois Pam Gothner Pegg Hislop Dan Mason Laurin McArthur
- Nancy McArthur Marcy Neville Paul Osenbaugh Dre Robuck Larry Shipps Leslie Shipps

Special thank you to our realtor, Jodi Downs, for expert advice on what needed fixing, rent, lease, etc. A big thank you to Marcy Neville for her painting “the hardest part” - upstairs and downstairs landing. And special thank you to Greg Jeffers for advice on the extended landing, emergency exit needs.

- Painted every room.
- Completely cleaned, painted kitchen. Refurbished all hardware.
- Created kitchen pantry from a former broom closet.
- Cleared dishwasher of debris.
- Created extended landing therefore allowing the apartment to safely add another bedroom.
- Changed lights to greener LED bulbs, replacing ill fitting or missing light fixtures for new ones.
- Hired Lee’s appliances to install new vinyl flooring for the kitchen, half and full baths.
- Hired Lee’s appliance to install a new kitchen counter.
- Hired local plumber Nick Pepe to replace the toilet in the full bathroom.
- Met with local realtor Jodi Downs for her upfront advice and administration of the application process and lease agreement.
- Hired carpet cleaning service.
- Repaired items as needed. (eg closet mirror)
- Etc etc etc too much to list it all.

We cannot thank the volunteers enough for the hard work and great fellowship in this work. Someone told me last week, “painting is boring by myself, BUT painting with friends is really fun.”

Debby Rice

Grounds Report October 2022:

A Grounds Work Day was held on November 8th. More raking is required if/when the current snowfall melts. Individuals who would like to rake independently are welcome to use the tools in the newly cleaned third bay of the garage.

Flower Committee:

The cold weather lets us remember that the Christmas holidays are just a few weeks away. The red poinsettias have been ordered from the nursery/gift shop in Glens Falls. They will be placed in the church starting on Sunday, December 11th and remain there through Sunday, December 25th. People can then take one home, if they wish. Some of the remaining flowers might be kept in place through January 1st, 2023. All containers are wrapped in foil and placed on plastic saucers.

Mission & Social Action Committee: M&SA is currently working with Families First to seek frozen turkeys, chickens, a pork loin so the 100+ families that FF serves can celebrate Thanksgiving with a main meat dish. People can either make a donation to KIVI (put T-Day in the memo) or bring a frozen item to church on November 6 or 13 (We will make a run after to church to deliver what we’ve collected). We have posted ads on Nextdoor Keene and Jay Community News and will be creating fliers to display at the post offices. A big thank you to Nancy McArthur for her leadership in developing the Thanksgiving initiative. We will be reaching

out to other churches to join us in this initiative and will post updates if we have success in that area. Next, M&SA will invite members of the congregation to join us in the near future and decide which agencies to support during Advent.

Sabbatical Committee: The Council recognized the hard work and dedication of the members of the Sabbatical Committee. The New Voices/New Perspectives theme created opportunities for guest speakers to genuinely express their own views and experiences. Comments around what people enjoyed about the sabbatical series include: positive impressions around the variety of people who spoke and the messages they gave; the way speakers were able to embalm their story with our faith or scriptures; enjoy the different styles of worship; enjoyed the gospel choir/music; the importance of questioning and having conversations around different topics. We felt that the speakers felt comfortable and safe offering their reflection or message to the congregation and those on line. It was recommended we continue the Day of the Dead reflection. Given how successful the sabbatical is going so far, many people recommended we continue to invite speakers of different cultures, religions, etc. to continue to offer their voices and perspectives.

Re-opening Committee: Susie Allen is the point person for this Committee as changes in Covid protocols are still in effect.

Personnel ad hoc Committee: Fritz let the Council know we have interviewed 18 people with 12 scheduled to be completed by mid-December. In January we will assimilate the information from those interviews. We will also ask John to complete his own evaluation. The interview process should be completed by end of January 2023.

Other Business:

Families First Thanksgiving Drive: KVCC has collaborating with Families First in Essex County to donate turkeys as well as monetary donations to their Thanksgiving Drive. Families First in Essex County has 111 families requesting help with filling their table for this Thanksgiving Holiday. Based on what was donated last year, Families First in Essex County offered the families we serve with a \$25 gift card to the grocery store of their choice. However, because of the generosity of KVCC and other new donors, we are able to also provide a turkey to each family. Families of 7 or more will receive a \$50, rather than \$25, gift card. All of identified families will be pleasantly surprised when they receive their gift card AND a turkey!! Staff at Families First in Essex County extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone at KVCC who played a part in exceeding Families First in Essex County's Thanksgiving drive expectations.

Keene Valley Neighborhood Initiative: Nancy met with the director of the Neighborhood House to identify ways in which residents may be more involved in their community, and how KVCC could be helpful. On December 12, we will be coordinating a gingerbread house decorating at 2 PM for the residents. Nancy is seeking volunteers to help and will generate an email asking for this.

Annual Retreat: Debby would like to schedule the Annual Retreat either January 29th or February 5th. Please pass on any ideas to Debby for topics for the retreat.

Feedback from November 20 Talk Back on New Voices:

Open and Affirming
Update for November Council Ad Hoc Report

We are continuing to find ways to effectively extend our call to be an open and affirming church. In 2022 we are reaching out into our community to express our joy and share our journey. Here is an update:



(Elaine Taylor-Wilde paints rainbows)

- KVCC Partnered with the Adirondack North Country Gender Alliance in order to participate in some key community events. (October 1)
 - Plattsburgh Pride –Continuing our outward expression of our journey, KVCC shows up. Thanks to Rev. Laurin McArthur for filling in for John Sampson during Sabbatical. Special thank you to Linda Bogardus, Susan Lacy, Nancy McArthur, Elaine Taylor Wilde, Jewels Wilde for active leadership.
 - Faith United in Oswego–KVCC representative Debby Rice shared about our Open and Affirming process and experience (October 30)

The next Council meeting is Tuesday, **December 27, 2022** (fourth Tuesday of the month) at 5:00 PM at Debby and Dan Mason’s home in Keene.

Deborah made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Mitchell, Clerk