

KVCC Church Council Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2022

Present: Charlotte Lichtenberg, Liz Jaques, Dre Roebuck, Anne Runyon Hurd, Susie Allen, Naj Wikoff, Nancy McArthur, Fritz Sabbow, Pam Gothner, Linda Bogardus, Naj Wikoff, Shawn LaMarche, and Deborah Mitchell. Dre Roebuck opened the meeting at 5:01 PM. This meeting was held at KVCC.

Opening Prayer: Dre led the group in a quiet reflective meditation.

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

Approval of Last Month's Meeting: Pam made a motion to approve the last month's meeting minutes, and Fritz 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. Nancy let us know there is a change in who our bookkeeper is this month. Nancy informed us that there has been a reconfiguration of the copier contract which netted some cost savings. This is Stewardship month, and Liz and Debby have been receiving great responses.

Worship Committee, October 7, 2022: Present: Naj Wikoff, Linda Bogardus, Anne Hurd, Susie Allen, Bernie Webb, Martha Gallagher

Naj reported that the services seem to be going well. His weekly workload depends on whether the worship leader plans the whole service—including choosing the music and readings—or just gives the Reflection. He has learned that he prefers that the leader do only the Reflection; otherwise, it takes a huge amount of work to explain the different elements of the service.

Susie is glad for the Zoom recording of the service and noted that it is a big deal that we made the commitment to provide the recording each week.

Henri would like to dial back the times that she does the youth message. We discussed whether to continue having a youth message when no children are in church or online. The consensus was that the message has value and brings in another voice. However, sometimes the message is too long, becoming a mini sermon, and that lengthens the overall service.

All agreed with what we know Pastor John feels, that the total service should be one hour only.

Announcements, prayers, the number and stanzas of hymns: these are places where we might rein in the service creep. One idea was to have announcements on the screen before the service begins.

Susie and Laurin will take over leadership for the services during Advent. Ushers and other helpers will be needed. Two Christmas baptisms may occur. On Christmas Eve, a family service will be held at 5 p.m.; a second, more contemplative service will be at 8 p.m. Members expressed gratitude to Naj for his hard work.

Next meeting: January 6, 2023 Submitted by Linda Bogardus

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

The Manse group moved from meetings/discussion to hands-on hard work. Fifteen volunteers actively refreshed the apartment for rental property based on an initial assessment of the apartment's condition. Key accomplishments:

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- 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 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. too much to list it all.

We cannot thank the volunteers enough for the hard work and great fellowship in this work. Debby Rice

Grounds Report October 2022:

The Grounds Committee participated in The Equinox celebration on Sept. 21 by providing a time of meditation in the pollinator garden with a handout explaining the history and the purpose of the garden. A Grounds Work Day is scheduled for November 8th to rake leaves and cut down the perennials.

Flower Committee:

Our KVCC congregation is now mostly in person these last few autumn months. So the volunteer group of four regularly places an arrangement on the altar for Sundays and other important special days. Autumn and winter months cause us to think of creative ways to use natural plants from forest, field, garden and home (house plants), if available.

The flower group of volunteers cannot do this rewarding task alone. We do have a few individuals that help us, depending on their seasonal schedules. But usually the task is completed by our regular volunteers: Alana Both, Ingrid Carmen, Susie Doolittle and Charlotte Lichtenberg. Each member listed above would be happy to share their knowledge on the subject or lead you to the bulletin board near the kitchen where the details are written out for your convenience. **We are actively searching for substitutes.** We still need your help, especially when a member of the group is away. Monetary contributions are also welcome. Thank you to all individuals for your past and present service to this worthy and rewarding task.

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 KVVU (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: Leslie Shipps let us know there have been some scheduling changes in who our guest speaker is and how well everyone is doing with making those scheduling changes.

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

Other Business:

Turkey Donations: KVCC is collaborating with Families First in Essex County to donate turkeys to their Thanksgiving Drive. They have a couple of other local churches who will also be obtaining donations. Nancy will be submitting requests to local vendors, such as Sam's Club, to see if they can donate turkeys as well.

Work Day: Saturday November 5 will be a work day at the church starting at 9 AM. The goal is to clean and organize the church basement and garage. Volunteers are welcomed.

Annual Meeting: Dre led a discussion around what went well during our recent Annual Meeting. We felt Debby Rice set a warm, inviting tone to the meeting so more people would participate and provide feedback.

Transition Team: Anne Runyon Hurd informed us that there is going to be a merger of the Essex Association and the Black River St. Lawrence UCC Delegations. The Transition Team recently had their first meeting to re-write and merge the documents and rules. A second meeting will be held within the month, and they are trying to identify a new name for this merger.

Potluck Dinners: Dre will be coordinating potluck dinners on Friday nights at the church. This will begin in November.

Halloween: Linda said that we will once again be giving out Halloween candy again this year. Lynn DeWalt will be playing organ music. Linda would like help decorating the church and giving out candy. We could also use Halloween candy donations.

The next Council meeting is Tuesday, **November 22, 2022** (fourth Tuesday of the month) at 5:00 PM in person at KVCC.

Deborah made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Mitchell, Clerk