

KVCC Church Council Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2022

Present: Pastor John Sampson, Debra Rice, Paul Osenbaugh, Erica Swift, Anne Hurd, Linda Bogardus, Nancy McArthur, Charlotte Lichtenberg, Susie Allen, Barbara Merle-Smith, Katherine Preston, Liz Jaques, Fritz Sabbow, Linda Bogardus, Dre Roebuck, Jimm Collin, Pam Gothner, Henrietta Jordan, and Deborah Mitchell.

Absent: Naj Wikoff, Derek Prill

Debby Rice opened the meeting at 5:00 PM.

Opening Prayer: Pastor John led the group in prayer.

Debby began the meeting with reading the Mission Statement of KVCC UCC. Based upon feedback from the Council's retreat, we will begin to integrate what we do, our spiritual lives and our Mission statement.

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

PASTOR'S REPORT – JANUARY 25, 2022

Worship and Spiritual Development

- Weekly meetings with Dave Craig regarding worship on the Zoom platform. Chris Blaicher is training to be Dave's back-up.
- The Centering Prayer Group meets mornings @ 7 AM. The weekly book discussion group on *The Cloud of Unknowing* is ongoing.
- Friday morning prayer group meets in the VSR, sharing prayers, concerns and joys of the community.
- Upcoming special worship:
 - January 30 – Celtic inspired worship informed by the Faith and Issues readings
 - March 2 – Ash Wednesday evening service
 - March 20 – Rerelease of Vernal Equinox vespers video via Zoom gathering
 - April 13 – Indoor labyrinth in VSR with electric candles
 - April 15 – Good Friday service
 - April 17 – Easter – Lighting Paschal candle, sunrise service, 10 AM church service
 - April 22 - Earth Day service
 - May 1 - Celtic inspired worship informed by the Faith and Issues readings
 - May 20/21 – World Meditation Day
 - June 5 – Pentecost
 - June 21 – Summer Equinox Vespers Celebration
 - July 31 - Celtic inspired worship informed by the Faith and Issues readings

Confirmed Memorial Services and Weddings

- None at this time.

Pastoral Support

- Provide ongoing pastoral support to the church community via Zoom, telephone, in-person meetings, and email.

Book Discussion Group – Tuesday Nights

- Began reading *Christianity and the Social Crisis* by Walter Rauschenbusch on Tuesday, January 11, 2022.

Community Support

- Working with members of the congregation on identifying neighbors in need, and supporting them through financial grants.

Essex Association

- Black River – St. Lawrence Association (BRSL)
 - Members of the Essex Association have had preliminary discussions with the BRSL Association about merging. The discussions have been positive, and are moving forward.

Training

- Sexual Harassment Prevention Training - Lynn to provide documentation that he received the training through KCS in September.

Sabbatical

- Will be on sabbatical September 2022 – mid-January 2023
- Attending Michaelmas Term at Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK
John is asking the Council to submit any requests of him by March 31, 2022

Out of Office

- No time out of office planned at this time.

Other Items

- Attend Spiritual Direction sessions for the development of my own spirit
- Agreed to serve on the Steering Committee of the Keene Diversity Advisory Committee (KDAC)
- Currently serving a 3-year term on the UC NY Board of Directors

Treasurer's Report: Prior to the meeting, Nancy provided the Council with the following documents: Income Statement Budget, KVCC Weekly Giving Summary, TD Ameritrade Statement, and KVCC Balance Sheet. Nancy talked about our Endowment Resources and the importance of being conservative in our expenditures. Nancy mentioned Larry Shipps is proposing a change in our Stewardship this year. He would like to be relieved of his duties, and requested that one member of the Mission and Social Action and one from Creation Justice join in this year's Stewardship Committee, a subcommittee of Finance. Deborah made a motion to

approve the Treasurer's report. Charlotte seconded the motion. A discussion followed, and the motion passed.

As part of the treasurer's report, Nancy described her analysis of the costs of the manse apartment. The Council agreed to formalize a lease (there is no current lease). Henri made a motion to offer our current tenant a six-month lease. Barbara seconded the motion. Nancy and Debby plan to finalize a lease and meet with the current tenant. Also, Nancy recommended that we form a manse discernment group to determine the best way to use the building. Paul, Henrietta, John and Debby volunteered to work through this process and report back to Council on options.

Committee Reports:

BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPORT AND INTENTIONS:

The Manse Building roof: (quoted as \$6,500) The North-Western aspect of the roof (closest to the tenant parking and entrance doors) has been due to be re-shingled for several years now. So when the tenant reported a continued leak in one of the upstairs rooms, it was decided to enlist Guy Smith to make repairs and re-shingle that portion of the roof. Guy Smith looked at the remaining eastern and the southern aspects of the roof and indicated that there is still a several years of life to the shingles there and, while the shingles to those two aspects had been installed at different times, he recommended it would be fiscally prudent to re-shingle both remaining aspects at the same time since having the roof re-shingled in three different sections would incur three separate job contracts instead of two. Until further inspection can be made in the spring to confirm, a guestimate at this time is that the rest of the roof can be addressed in the next 3 to 8 years.

Manse Building Chimney: Repairs have been made to the Manse chimney, complete stucco finish. While it was discussed that the contractor would address the Van Santvoord chimney, it does not appear to have been included in the repair contract (cracking/displaced mortar is visible outside).

Lights for Handicap Parking: Installed by Dusan.

Solar Panels on Garage Roof: Project is still expected to be completed this year 2022.

Church Bell Planned Maintenance Contract: Reoccurring each March (previously \$500)

Future Projects list on following page

Respectfully Submitted, Derek Prill

Grounds Report December 2021: Pam said that she was able to order flowers for the pollinator garden, and planting is expected to begin in early June.

Worship Committee Council Report December 7, 2021:

A recap of the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season was the first agenda item. John reviewed what happened in each of the weeks and asked for feedback. The committee members were mostly very positive with particular praise for the Annunciation of Mary Sermon. There was less enthusiasm for the Pageant, and a feeling by a few that the Three Kings fell flat. Overall, after listening to the comments, John feels that it was nourishing experience for everyone.

There was a special spoken recognition for David Craig's productions of the Zoom worship services. It was expressed that the service has come into its own with all its parts making a complete panorama.

In response to a question about what would happen when John is gone on Sabbatical later this year, which includes Advent though Epiphany, John said that there would be two phases. One would be an invitation to the wider Community to lead worship on a Sunday. These would be single, stand-alone opportunities to share aspects that aren't part of our

usual norm. Because John feels that Advent to Epiphany is one continuing arc, Laurin McArthur and Susie Allen will work together as co-leaders to lead us in this important time for our congregation.

John presented a preliminary worship schedule from now-- the end of Epiphany-- and continuing into October. This is coming out of Creation Justice with inspiration from the Faith and Issue's study of Celtic traditions. (See Pastor's report for full details)

Mission and Social Action Committee: There has been no MSA activity since the December disbursement of grants approved by the Congregation. Barbara Merle-Smith and I are proposing a project that would involve KCS students in helping us make hygiene kits for folks impacted by natural disasters. This is a UCC-sponsored initiative; the UCC will provide a matching grant that will enable us to assemble approximately 20-25 kits, which will be sent to a UCC distribution center. The committee will meet in late January or early February to begin discussing priorities for the year. So, next month's report will hopefully be a bit more interesting than this one. Henri Jordan and Naj Wikoff, co-chairs.

Flower Committee: Charlotte noting we're in the winter season. Members of this Committee will be finding items in nature to use in lieu of fresh flowers.

Creation Justice Report:

The Creation Justice Church Task Force has continued to post weekly on the KVCC Newsletter but has not had any meetings since we were designated as a Creation Justice Church. Dan Mason provided an update on the solar panels. The engineering plan has been approved and ADK Solar is waiting for the approval by NYSERDA. The panels that were included in the original quote were manufactured in a country that has child labor and are no longer being imported. Dan suspects that the new equipment will be more expensive. ADK Solar is working on a revised estimate.

Re-Opening Task Force Report

- Group continues to monitor updates to health guidance, and the state of the pandemic.
- Full hybrid worship offered beginning July 4, 2021.
- Group meeting every week.
- Group has begun discussing thresholds to open more fully aspects of our church life

Sabbatical Committee Report December 1, 2021:

The Committee has met twice since our last council meeting. We are making great progress in getting things lined up for September.

Naj has agreed to be our Worship Facilitator. He is the one who will coordinate with our worship leaders, music team, Liz, and Dave to ensure we have all that is needed for the bulletin, and both zoom and in person worship.

Liz has created a list of things she ordinarily does so we know her scope of activities. We will be able to help if she feels overburdened at any time.

We are in the process of picking out a picture for the Christmas Card next year.

We have begun to ask individuals if they would be Worship Leaders during the 9 Sundays in which we need them. So far both Dan Bergeron and Martha Swan have reserved dates.

Respectfully submitted: Barbara Merle-Smith, Elizabeth Davidson, Naj Wikoff, Chris Blaicher, Debby Rice

Church Council Retreat Check In:

Debby summarized points brought up at the Church Council and highlighted the following areas: Increasing Community Engagement; Building the Church Post Pandemic; Making a Difference in Activism; Continuing Contemplative Prayer; Listening to more New Voices, and “Nuts and Bolts.”

Other Business: Debby sought clarification from the Council around the upcoming NY UCC Annual Conference (June 2022). We need to submit the paperwork identifying who from our Congregation will be attending this three-day conference. We can send two delegates. Barbara and Anne have been chosen; however, Barbara may not be available to attend. Dre offered to attend in Barbara’s absence. John will provide specific dates once more information becomes available. John shared the CJC Task Force was de-commissioned this past Sunday. Former members of this task force, Katherine and Pam, will continue to shepard us through those existing initiatives and any new initiatives that may develop. An announcement will be made to the Congregation about this new group. Debby asked about whether or not KVCC will be having our annual bazaar. Numerous Council members weighed in this subject, to include ways in which we could keep some of the same activities but introduce new activities reflecting some of our goals and accomplishments. Dre will arrange a meeting of potential volunteers for an upcoming bazaar. Dre made a motion to have our Annual Bazaar the first full weekend in August. Katherine seconded the motion. A discussion was made, and the motion was passed.

Deborah made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:12 PM.

Next council meeting is Tuesday, **February 22, 2022** (fourth Tuesday of the month) at 5:00 PM in person at the Keene Valley Library with a Zoom component.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Mitchell, Clerk