

## Church Council Notes Union Church, February 21, 2022

**Present:** Joan English (Recorder), Dave Kobersmith (Staff), Marty Hensley (Finance), Jennifer Melton (Worship), Carla Gilbert (church member), Kent Gilbert (Pastor), Kim Kobersmith (Nominating), David Jones (Staff), Amy Schill (CL&G), Shirley Carlberg (Bookkeeper), Betty Hibler (Mission & Service), Bob Boyce (Properties), Linda Parsons (Clerk), Paul Smithson (Moderator)

A quorum was present. Our devotional was read by Amy Schill, a poem called [Fall in Love](#). Words of gratitude to those leaving Union Church service – Amy Schill from CL&G and Paul Smithson as Moderator. Carla suggested notes to Mary Lou Wiese, whose term on Nurture & Care has ended.

### Action Items

Bob moved, Linda seconded the motion that the January meeting minutes be approved, agreed by show of hands.

**Putnam Resolution.** Basically an administrative detail. We have a gift which was given to by a lifetime member who worked for Putnam, in honor of her parents (Chad and Janet Spring). Most recently, that money funded the Cowan Chapel chandelier. We need to take that money out of the Putman account and put it into checking our account to use. An attorney certification is required for release of funds - Charlie Hoffman will do that.

**As a motion from a Board (Finance), this needs no second. Motion to move funds as proposed was passed.**

**Affirmation of Participation in the Interfaith Alliance of the Bluegrass.** We have been invited to help revitalize it. Interfaith Alliance is a national organization created in 1994 to celebrate religious freedom – the Bluegrass chapter has faded. Medical Debt Relief & Afghan Refugees are interfaith work. Kent is asking Church Council to allow him to affirm the organization's principles and would like to join. [Read about it here](#). There are no dues, there is already a governance structure. What is Kent's obligation? None, other than overseeing our reentry. David stated that, as we go through confirmation process, this would be a great resource. Carla is a member, the group has been tremendously helpful and enriching.

**Question called - shall we join the Bluegrass chapter of Interfaith Alliance? Kent so moved, Paul second. All in agreement to join 0 opposed.**

**Member in Discernment.** Maria Hartz is at seminary and is in the process of discernment in the United Church of Christ. That process asks that her local church consider her a "Member in Discernment." She'll be assigned a mentor from Louisville Pres. Seminary. No obligation other than our prayers, and a letter from Kent with our blessing. Maria is the 13<sup>th</sup> person Union Church have affirmed in discernment. What's up with Sean Mack, our most recent? He's attending Louisville Seminary. Working with several churches information structures. His possibilities -- Parish call? Tech minister? Joseph Jacobs has preached at Rachel Small Stokes' church in Louisville. Abby Embry due to be ordained once Covid abates. She'd hoped Union would host, we are absolutely still willing.

**Kent so moved, Jennifer second. All in favor – YAY! 0 opposed.**

**Honorary Lifetime Deacons.** The Smithsons and Mehlers have agreed to be elected. Anyone with other ideas, please send to Kim.

### Discussion

**Finance Report.** Shirley reported that we're currently \$7000 in the red, which is good for January. We've been as much as \$18,000 behind in years past. Income is good.

**Coordination of Lent activities.** The theme is Full to the Brim. Replace the gunk with that which is life-giving. There are paper devotionals available and on the website. Can be mailed to those who wish. Rachael White will do a photo a day calendar again. David reported that Faith Development will be breaking down the Children's Resources & getting them to parents. What will Easter look like? Ash Weds will not be in person, but there will be an opportunity to receive ashes and a service will be broadcast. Hoping Covid numbers fall and we can be more in-person toward the end of March. We've got 4 confirmands & 4 mentors. David would like to start their involvement on Ash Wednesday.

**Annual Reports are due.** Board terms officially end at the end of March

## Board Updates or Highlights

- Admin
- CL&G – Crafternoon – led by Betsy. Jars decorated. Next month Vallorie Henderson might lead a crochet craft
- Faith Development – Confirmation will begin soon, we have excellent materials for the 10-week program. Planning to do it in person
- M&S – Justice Candle – all are welcome to contribute ideas for honorees. There’s a form on the website. Will try to do a 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday program for the next couple of months
- Nominating – only one slot yet to fill, hearing “yes” a lot!
- N&C – will be reaching out for some hosting for mid-March. Bob Shaffer’s memorial service on March 19, with a reception. It will be broadcast. There is soup in quart containers and bread in the freezer. Grieving families are brought bread, candleholder. Barbara Wade is back from Hawaii where she had a stroke, having some difficulty. Would like cards, visits from vaccinated friends.
- Properties – The last of the windows has been installed. Remote locks will be installed soon.
- Worship – Kent reported that the funds set aside for A/V improvements will be used soon. Have had someone look at monitors, speakers; suggestion that the audiovisual equipment be moved to the main floor into a raised booth at the very back of the sanctuary. We will lose the middle of the most-way-back pew, 10-foot long construction out of the 19-foot pew. Paul affirmed there will still be passage behind the booth.
- Endowment looks to be \$450,000 by the end of February. The Endowment Committee met in December. Nearly halfway to the million \$ goal in 10 years.

**Pastor’s Report.** Health is about the same. We have adapted staff-wise to our work. Kentucky Council of Churches Prayer in Action Days continue through the end of March. Tomorrow’s topic is Food Insecurity. Kent has worked with our Worship Planning Team and looked at some stats on who’s watching what? In 2021 – 500 views per service on all platforms. That’s held steady. There’s been a shift to YouTube and the website. Kent has asked people to state their location – we have viewers all over the country & internationally.

## Announcements

- News items
- Next scheduled consideration of Funding Requests – May, 2022
- Next Meeting March. 21, Devotion: Carla

Kim reminded the group that we’ll need to look at Covid numbers and discuss re-opening.

Rev. Kent offered prayer to end the meeting.

Meeting ended at 8:15

Joan English