

Church Council Notes Union Church, March 21, 2022

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

A quorum was present. Our devotional was offered by Carla Gilbert. Daily guide for Lent & Easter - wisdom from Thomas Merton. Question of the evening – what do you see emerging this spring?

Action Items

Marty so moved, Paul seconded the motion that the February meeting minutes be approved, after fixing a typo, agreed by show of hands.

Adjustments to Covid precautions. National change to guidelines. In light of these national changes, Kim adjusted our document. We have been in the green for 2 weeks, after a few days in yellow. How does everyone feel about where we are? [CHART](#). Kent – we found that the balcony not being closed for seating was helpful for those who felt like being a bit apart. We are cognizant of not wanting to open/close, open/close. If we are ever back in the red, and limit to 50, people are likely to self-select. Only time we had a big group was when bells AND orchestra were playing. Cloth masks NOT acceptable in yellow or red. David – in Green, do we want to address the size of groups in smaller groups/rooms re: masking, eating? CDC says it's ok. Green is back to "normal." Unvaccinated are encouraged to wear masks. Question of Confirmation Class, no restrictions if green. Aside from Marty – there's a good possibility that unvaccinated people may be taken off the transplant list.

Group likes the idea of a shorter list of bullet points.

This guide can be distributed in color, and posted on the website and bulletin.

Marty – keep in mind that just because WE are in the green, all surrounding counties are not.

Discussion

Finance Report. Shirley reported. In the red, typical for this time of year, but not as badly as in years past. We did receive the very large bequest from the Stewart-Hindman family. It has been disbursed as directed by previous CC decisions thusly: From October, 2021 minutes -- *Motion to use the Stewart-Hindman Union Church Fund distribution from 2021 for the 2022 budget, waiving the Financial Policy requirement to pay 20% to the 5 Boards and 20% to the endowment. Marty so moved, Mary Lou second. It is understood that this use of an Undesignated Bequest is a deviation from Financial Policy. Motion passed unanimously.*

Celebration/Events – upcoming things to celebrate --Kent's 25th anniversary at Union; the sanctuary turns 100 years old, our new Mark Hayes song. Maybe debut the Hayes piece on Easter Sunday. Bells and orchestra have seen it, choir will start soon (having an organizational meeting after Sunday service, 4-3). Kent's anniversary: has anything emerged? Support of RITI seems a good project. Kent's installation was Pentecost of 1997. June 5, 2022 might be a great time for an ice cream social and we can invite the community. Jean, Kent, CC chair to plan? We'll talk again. The church was dedicated Sept. 15, 1922. Could celebrate 100 years then. Bob would like to see these important dates celebrated at different times.

Board member orientation. Does Church Council have a responsibility with that? Yes, there is info that needs to be disseminated, including how to get something on the main calendar, how things are paid, how do we schedule Zoom, how do we decide if something is hybrid? Dave K reported that we've held a weekend retreat -- but incoming Board members didn't seem to be in favor of spending a Saturday learning procedures, etc. in years past. Dave will orient "his" 3 Boards. Admin is the only one of his that has new members. Have Boards identify what they need? Carla – N&C will probably need a lot of organizational stuff – kind of starting from scratch. Carla will convene a meeting to elect a chair, Kent will help organize. Any chairs here to affirm? David will take that on. Kent will take M & S. Worship is in good shape. No brand new members.

Hazel will go back on Nurture & Care. Kim what if we add a person as "ad hoc," and then vote at the next Congregational Meeting. Board chair can add a person "ad hoc" and inform Church Council. Joan – add Hazel to poster. If a member of staff represents your Board at CC, they do not have a vote according to the Constitution.

Kim: are we ok leaving it there? ... yes, seems ok.

Board Updates or Highlights

- Admin
- CL&G –
- Faith Development – Confirmation – 3 of our mentors are on CC. Bob & Jean Boyce; Jennifer Melton. The 4th is Carla Baumann. Confirmation is Pentecost, June 5.
- M&S –
- Nominating –
- N&C –
- Properties –
- Worship – if anyone would like to join them, they can use another member(s). Let Jennifer know. They need greeters. In Worship Board's case, it really does need to be a local in-person person. 2 requests for membership this Sunday, more may come. Ellen Suters and Sayer Kobersmith.
- Endowment -

Pastor's Report. We are worry/planning for Easter. Will be different of necessity – Kent's (and everyone's) energy, still in the midst of reopening. Still experimenting with camera work and are adding another tech person. This is an excellent season to train new A/V folks. We've received second bid for A/V needs. Brainstorming plan is a booth at the back of the main floor of sanctuary, blending in as much as possible. Some area will need to be roped off, esp. in the balcony, due to wires. It'll likely be installed in the summer, or later. The current sound booth would return to active seating. We're continuing our partnership with Interfaith Alliance regarding Kentucky Refugee Ministries. Reaching out to Berea College students to see if they have family in Ukraine. \$7535 raised for refugee resettlement.

Kentucky Council of Churches – this session is finishing up. Tomorrow & next Tuesday are the last of the Prayer in Action Days. There will be a press conference tomorrow. Kent testified at a meeting of Health & Human Services committee. The Republican super-majority continues its underhanded maneuvering in not giving info to members, changed the Senate rules to allow substitution of bills with nearly 0 notice. A 36-page bill was distributed the night before it was to be voted upon. Food assistance cut; barriers to Medicaid added. His health – no change. Not better, not worse. Grateful for the opportunity to rest as needed.

Betty's brother passed away, she has lost 2 siblings in a year. Yesterday Tom Hubbard's ashes were spread in the Memorial Garden. Anniversary of Joyce Henderson's death is coming up. Looking to spread both her and Jack's ashes in the memorial garden.

Announcements

- News items
- Next scheduled consideration of Funding Requests – May, 2022
- Next Meeting April. 18, Devotion: Carla

Rev. Kent offered prayer to end the meeting, especially for Paul Smithson's long service as Moderator. Amy will leave Community Life & Growth; Mary Lou will leave Nurture & Care.

Meeting ended at 8

Joan English