

## Church Council Notes Union Church, May 16, 2022

**Present:** Joan English (Recorder), Dave Kobersmith (Staff), Marty Hensley (Finance), Kent Gilbert (Pastor), Kim Kobersmith (Nominating), David Jones (Staff), Shirley Carlberg (Bookkeeper), Bob Boyce (Properties), Linda Parsons (Clerk), Deb Beishline (CL&G), Jean Boyce (Moderator), Betty Hibler (Mission),

A quorum was present. Our devotional was offered by Joan from Mark Nepo:

*“What will you do today, knowing that you are one of the rarest forms of life to ever walk the Earth? How will you carry yourself? What will you do with your hands? ... Tomorrow you could die ... but today you are precious and rare and awake ... Grateful and awake, ask what you need to know now. Say what you feel now. Love what you love now.”*

Question of the evening – share a word that captures how you feel today.

### Action Items

**Minutes:** Approval of April minutes. So moved by Linda, seconded by Bob, approved.

**Appointment of Ellen Mink** to serve on the Administration Board. Moved by Jennifer, Jean seconded. Approved with gratitude! Church Council will report Ellen’s to the congregation at its next meeting.

**Election of Endowment Committee Representative.** Anyone feel moved to volunteer? Kim will serve. Approved by consensus & with thanks.

### Discussion

**Finance Report.** Shirley reported. Financial reports - at March month-end, all account balances for year-end have been updated. April month-end is a different picture. We were a few thousand in the red at the end of March, at the end of April we were \$10,000-plus in the red. What changed? Good income in March, but that ended up being a bit deceptive because month-end donations were credited to March which should’ve been for April, due to the way the calendar fell. Shirley is ok with these up and downs. We will re-do the budget during the summer and can adjust as needed. We’ll receive the Lambert distribution mid-year which will help. All are asked to continue being thrifty.

The HUGE response to Ukrainian relief was very moving. It’s possible some folks directed their generosity there. We’re about where we were in years past income vs. expenditure. We will do a stewardship push and try to get more on auto giving.

**Should we consider meeting in person for June & ongoing?** No burning desire for an in-person option, all are pretty happy with Zoom. We’ll try again in the fall.

### Coordination

#### Board Updates or Highlights

- Admin -
- CL&G – David reported. Lemonade on the Porch started. Please volunteer throughout the summer. Look forward to an ice cream social in July.
- Faith Development –
- M&S – Donna Abner, Carla Gilbert & Tennant Kirk are being hosted by Dorothy on their trip at the border. We’re looking forward to a report. Kent rec’d a message of greetings from the group, including photos. They’ve discovered a fair trade coffee source from Chiapas.
- Nominating –
- N&C –
- Properties – working on an A/V booth mock-up
- Worship –
- Endowment -

**Pastor’s Report** Pastoral Care issues: we’ve had several deaths in the church family, 2 new members joined. We’ve got 5 additional inquiries. Moving ahead on A/V rehab. Properties has been looking at the ceiling – this looks to be a

huge job. A spot of plaster needs repair. Cracks will need to be repaired, all will be painted. Ultimately about a quarter-million \$ project. Scaffolding is a huge expense. If that's the case, we are about due another capital campaign. We could we raise \$ to help the building and pair with outreach in the community. Need new carpet in the Chapel, additional lighting. Can we roll those projects together with community project? It's a great opportunity for connection, and churchwide discussion. We're all figuring out how to be in the office and amongst each other as staff. Faith Development is talking about surveys – we'd like to know how people feel about gatherings, fellowship opportunities, and what else they'd like to see as we reconnect in the fall.

Still wrestling with licenses – churches are increasingly a target of copyright infringement violation by bots. It's an overwhelming task to think about. We can – right now – start with caveats - something like “by entering the building, you consent to having your image broadcast. We need signs about a video-free zone. Rules and considerations are very complicated regarding children.

Kent met with Jean. Kim is invited to join for occasional tete-a-tetes. Kent reported his health is not better. He's had both best and worse days in the last 2 weeks. Had blood work and ruled out several serious problems; others are not clear. He's struggling with functioning at the level he has/needs. No easy solutions. A leave of absence is not likely to help – rest does not help. Seeks prayers of discernment going forward.

### **Announcements**

Bob asked for prayers for a niece, just having had surgery; Opal & Iris' grandpa had a mild stroke. Going to Cardinal Hill for rehab. Betty will be away Memorial Day weekend for a service for her brother and sister, in Missouri where they grew up.

- News items – tomorrow is election day
- Next scheduled consideration of Funding Requests – August, 2022
- Next Meeting June 20. Joan will be away, someone needed to take minutes

Meeting ended at 8:00

Joan English