

Council Meeting – July 6, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm

Attendees:

Rev Bernard

Mary Crawford

Walter McCullough

Dave Lummis

Calvin Mew

Mary Peniston

Bayard Dodge

John Moran

Andrew Cummings

Teri Gaberman

Britta Lerner

Taffy Miller

Tara Quist

Shivanthi Edwards

The covenant was read, Bernard opened up with a scripture reading from Matthew 14:19-20.

A motion was made to approve the last Council minutes, it was approved and seconded.

Minister's Report

Bernard was proud of all the work done by Outreach board, there was a special mention of Bernard by the Westport clergy.

Trustee's Report

Virtual close of books over the weekend. Pledge income stands at \$361,803, this year we wrote off bad pledges earlier in the year, so we are able to forecast better during these difficult times. We have been intentional about cutting back on expenses, all boards are below budget and thanks to volunteers from the church, we saved \$8,000 in landscaping. Dave Lummis observed that pledge giving seems to be somewhat consistent, Mary however observed that since we are running a deficit for the third year, we need to be vigilant about spending. There was a discussion about whether making an appeal to the congregation about increasing pledges was a good idea.

Norfield Reimagined

Some members wanted services on a limited basis as they felt a bit disconnected. Others however thought that we were doing a great job with all our online services. We discussed various options; the clergy discourages gatherings as it can be a logistical nightmare.

Council discussed the daily gatherings for Black Lives Matter and if that was a safe way of gathering.

After much discussion, the Council decided that gathering in person was too much of a risk at the present time. For the moment, we are sticking with the guidelines adopted in June and plan to reassess this decision at each Council meeting (next one is in August).

Racial justice ministry team

The goal of this ministry team is to craft ways for Norfielders to eradicate racial injustice. Rev Ruby Wilson will lead the group of 35 members in an educational session.

Board Reports

Most boards had nothing much to report.

Fellowship

Virtual coffee hour seems to be running smoothly, the board is constantly looking at ways to stay connected.

CE Report

June 14th Meeting:

- *Discussed issues surrounding racism and how CE should respond
- *Developed a list of resources appropriate for teaching young children and teens about racism—how to stand up to it and how to develop a deeper love for yourself and others.
- *Continued discussion about what CE would look like if we reopened (most board members feel it is premature to reopen—September may even be too early. Wait to see how schools manage and what states mandate).

Follow-up to June 14th Meeting:

- *Coordinated messages and gifts to all NCC graduates with notes of congratulations and a gift.
- *Sent an e-letter out to all CE parents with the resource list noted above. (Also included letter and list in the weekly newsletter).
- *Completed phone calls and email outreach to all CE parents asking for feedback on remote CE program and reopening. Data and suggestions currently being put into a single resource for discussion at our next meeting.

*NEXT MEETING: SUNDAY July 12th.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer at 8:32pm.

Respectfully submitted by Shivanthi Edwards