

BCC Cabinet Meeting Minutes

Date: 04/10/2022

Submitted by: Sanjay Cherian

In Attendance:

Name	Role	Voting?
Catherine Merrill	Minister	N
Ann Desrochers	Moderator	Y
Sanjay Cherian	Clerk	Y
Amy Razzaboni	Outreach	Y
Bill Dunbar	Finance	Y
Rena Duncklee	Treasurer	Y
John Panto	Deacons	N
Candy Tiner	Publicity	Y
Jill Aitken (Zoom)	Deacons	Y

The meeting started at 8:33 am with a prayer from Rev Cath. We had a quorum.

Calendar Review

- May 13th is the next THM (added to the church calendar in real time).
- Maundy Thursday service will be 7 pm at Mason, with a Zoom option available. There will be a link in the bulletin and on our website. Candy added it to the calendar.
- The Good Friday Prayer Vigil has a couple of slots left open. Cath will take one. Jill will take one as well.
- Easter
 - Sunrise service – Cath has confirmed she can get all the way to the top by car.
 - The 10 am service will be upstairs in the sanctuary with Jocelyn Jones playing piano. YiFan will be playing today.
- Maundy Thursday – we’re still looking for one more lay reader.
- May 1, 2022 – 2nd Discernment Meeting
- May 14, 2022 – Scout Spaghetti Supper
- May 21, 2022 – Senior Luncheon In-person and take out available
- Are there any big town events that we can schedule breakfast alongside?
 - Bill: They just held the Easter egg hunt this weekend with tons of kids. Jill: it’s put on by the Women’s Club, so it’s not officially a town event.

Review of Prior minutes

- Candy moved to accept the corrected minutes sent by email, Bill seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

BSA Bankruptcy Update

- The Cub Scout pack has asked us to recharter with them.
 - The Legion has agreed to charter the Boy Scouts, as they have historically done. The Cub Scouts are leaning towards going the same way.
 - Our adjudicatory bodies and insurance providers have urged us not to recharter. We would be 100% liable if dragged into a legal situation. We can host the Cub Scouts with a certificate of liability on file but not as the chartering organization.
 - Sanjay noted that if we felt conscience-bound to charter, we would want to supervise and verify compliance with our safe church policies. Ann notes that this wouldn't change our liability situation. Sanjay: it would be the minimum prudent requirement if we felt we really wanted to.
 - Cath: the Girl Scouts run a national organization without requiring chartering. She thinks the Boy Scouts are trying to be more connected with the community by requiring chartering but they're doing it in a way that offloads legal liability in a way that may not work today. It's easier to partner with the Girl Scouts just because of their organizational structure.
- Bill moved that we do not charter the Cub Scouts and let them use our facilities with a certificate of liability instead. Rena seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- Ann: someone at the church has signature authority on the Cub Scouts' bank account but the Cub Scouts don't know who. It could be Russell or it could be from so long ago that it's not someone who's still here. We have no record so the Cub Scouts will probably have to ask TD Bank, who has closed the local branch. If they find someone at the church, that person will probably have to go to the bank to relinquish their signature authority.

Covid Worship Guidelines

- Further action was tied in with the deacons and they hadn't talked to a lot of people by the last meeting. Jill: is personally still waiting to hear back from people to whom they reached out. She will have another update after the next deacons meeting. She has an action item to follow up to find out what else we could do to make things better.
- John P: heard back from Lindsey Shaklee, who's appreciative that we reached out but right now, she's going to another local church with Cora. This is mainly to have peer opportunities for Cora. Joel is busy every weekend doing robotics with his son. Cora is mostly getting peer interaction from youth group type activities rather than Sunday School. She has no strong opinion on our Covid policies so no strong opinion on Covid-related things we could do to make it easier for them to come back.
- Bill: there are people out there who feel that this is their church. They don't come but participate in other capacities, like Senior Luncheon, THM, Outreach activities. This includes people like Cathi Whitcomb, Barbara Whitcomb, and the Dulacs.
- Rena: wasn't the point of the contact activity to reach out to people who were active here but stayed away?
 - Bill: the Lockwoods went to another church pre-Covid because of their grandkids/daughter.
 - Amy will ask her father-in-law again.
 - Sanjay: heard from someone that people who have stayed away may need a personal invitation to feel comfortable coming back. There was some confirmation by other cabinet members with various reasons why this may be the case
 - embarrassment at absence so far with an invitation being a convenient justification for returning
 - people liking it being noticed that they hadn't come and were missed.

Faith Formation

- Ann: Discernment may help us figure out what we want to do for Faith Formation.
- Ann: Maybe we approach the Girl & Boy Scouts and offer to run a “God and Me” program for/with them. It’s a badge they do. Ann thinks they do 3 things: God & Me, God & Family, God & Country. It would be a way to back into a program by connecting with the community first, as Megan has suggested.

Book Study

- Cath: People had a good time and got good things from it.
- The group talked about doing another one for May, which Cath will support.

Ongoing live music as part of worship

- Ann: Hadn’t gotten a full resolution at our last meeting.
- We had talked about the costs involved and can we even offer competitive pay
- Cath: every now and then, she gets a note from a musician with contact info but they may be expired.
- Rena: what is the status of Jocelyn & Yifan? John: we are actively having the conversation with them but no one’s made the commitment to regular participation.
- Bill: we might ask Pam Shaw.
 - Jill: she might also know someone else in the area.
 - Amy: Nancy might know if Pam has any physical restrictions.

Deacons’ Report

- The focus is Holy Week.
- The deacons are looking for one more lay reader for Maundy Thursday. Sanjay & Russell have agreed already.
- Good Friday Vigil has a couple of slots open
- Easter Sunday – 5:45 service at Andres Institute, 10 am indoors with live music.
- Cath: reminded the Cabinet that we agreed to bring something for coffee hour.
- We would like to do a pot luck brunch service again to encourage fellowship, probably in the summer.
 - Cath: when we did it before, it was in support of a scripture and done as a surprise. This time it will be different.
 - Cabinet members thought it was a great idea and there was no objection.
- John: Have we thought about July and August worship at the lake? Jill: they will discuss it at the next deacons meeting.

Finance & Treasurer’s Report

BCC YTD Financial Summary	Actual Income	Actual Expenses	Income vs Expenses + / -
March	\$17,742	\$26,067	(\$8,326)

Cash Reserves: \$ 64,286.41 (threshold < \$48,362.00)

- Since the proceeds from the last THM went to Ukraine, that represents \$1,497 that didn't go into our operating budget.
- Pledges went way down this past month. Bill is hoping it will go back up in Easter like it usually does.
- Rena asked if we should get a credit card with a cash back offer. Bill has gone to several banks but the card would have to be in a particular person's name and it would have to be cancelled if that person leaves. Only one organization lets you do it in the church's name but offers no cash back. TD gives 1% when you spend the money and the other 1% when you deposit money in a TD bank account. If you did all the trustees' & administrative expenses through this card, you'd make \$150-\$200 for the year. Is it worth the hassle for this? If we were a big church, it would be more worthwhile but for small congregations, it's not.
 - Ann: The NH Conference uses Bank of New Hampshire with individual cards under one organization but they're charging huge amounts to those cards.
 - Cath: agrees that it doesn't seem worth it. But are there any bills that would be easier for Rena to pay if we had a credit card? Rena: it costs about \$100/year to buy checks.
 - Bill: we could renew the TD debit card we used to have.

ONA Report

- No update

Outreach Report

- The board hasn't met recently. They will meet next after Easter to plan Senior Luncheon for May and what they might do going forward.
- They discussed with Lynn Giblin the idea of doing a card writing project through all of May because it is military month. It may be in partnership with the Boy Scouts.
- Amy had a phone conversation with Zoe at His Mansion. Zoe went through what they've been doing and positions they're looking for. They used to only intake people 2-3 times a year but now they're doing it once a month. They're doing some renovating of buildings. They did well through Covid. She just got hired so is reaching out. She has our email so she can send us videos, etc.
- Bill: Southern New Hampshire Rescue Mission is in the process of building their women's shelter. Amy: Nancy had brought it up and will keep in contact with them and let Outreach know when they have a list of needs.

Minister's Report

April 2022 (3/7 through 4/3)

Since this goes in the church's record, because of the Covid-19 global pandemic, we continue to offer in-person worships services weekly, which we have been doing since 3/21/2021. That service is recorded, edited and posted for those who aren't able to come to the sanctuary.

- Averaging 27.1 hours/week, which puts me between 9 hours under to 63 hours over since Sept. 12. This time last year, I was averaging 27.9 hours/week.
- Baptism of Avery Rose Lubelczyk
- Pastoral counseling in person & on the phone.
- First discernment meeting after worship on 3/20.
- Final book group meeting for Project Hail Mary
- Following up with a mom who called about having her boys baptized and connecting her with Erin & Jill.

- Sending person email invitations to 3/20 discernment meeting.
- Worship planning for May & June.
- Reviewing Discernment discussion slides
- Reviewing Good Friday bulletin draft.
- Fireside Chat through the BTS with Rabbi Neril on Scriptural support for environmental stewardship
- Scouting Andres Institute to be sure I could still get up to the top in my car (I could!)

Services:

- 3/13: Reflecting on Ukraine and the need to witness the first day to get to the third day.
- 3/20: Not making such an idol of our own spiritual strength that we cannot listen to others.
- 3/27: Interrupting the story of the Prodigal Son as we interrupt God speaking to us.
- 4/3: Living our faith in a new way, fully expecting God to do a new thing.

Regular Meetings: Cabinet, Deacons, Clergy Support, Moderator

Cath is happy to have made it to Holy Week instead of spending the previous Friday night in hospital as she has in the last 2 years.

Trustees Report

- Trustees: Susan Haight (with Russell Haight) Trustee Emeritus: Clarence Farwell
- Finally, after a bit of a delay, the poly film and foam insulation has been installed. Should we need any poly film in the future, the crew from Quality Insulation left a box in the basement. The fiberglass insulation around the perimeter was removed so the foam could be sprayed and will need to be put back. I will work on that as I have time.
- Jerry Farwell has replaced the septic cover in the parking lot so Catherine has her designated parking space back unobstructed. YAY!
- There are a couple of maintenance projects in the works and should be completed by June or July:
 - The door handle for the side door was cleaned and repaired by the locksmith where it was purchased however, Russell was not successful at reinstalling it. Peter B. had installed it before so he may have the magic touch. I will follow up with him when he is back from his trip. For now, we are using the handle from the nursery and asking people to use the deadbolt.
 - The exterior door on the lawn side of the church is on order and should be delivered sometime in May. At that time, the contractor will rebuild the frame and threshold and install the door.
 - I noticed that the toilet to the left was not shutting off so I drained the tank, wiped it out and cleaned off the cylinder seal but it did not help. Russell is trying to track down a replacement seal to see if that takes care of the issue. If not, I will have the plumber back to check it out.
 - Russell has been working the counter in the kitchen and should have it back in place soon. He is also going to install the rail in the basement.
- Last item is about the roof. I noticed the stain on the ceiling in the Deacons' room is bigger. It is possible that it's been like that for some time but at some point we should have the roof inspected.
- Thank you all for your help along the way. Together we will get things done

From meeting:

- Ann: at this point, it looks like Susan and Russell are the trustees.
- Amy: is Sue Laub not cleaning the church anymore? Is it a limited amount of cleaning? Amy stopped by yesterday and saw Russell and Sue were cleaning. She hopes they'll let us know if they need help.

- Cath: there was a time she redirected Sue Laub to the head of Trustees or Candy, so she doesn't know the details.
- Cath: is there a way to not have Sue H be the lone trustee? John: if we have Sue & Russell reach out more frequently, we'll pitch in. Cath: is concerned whether they'll ask for help.
- Amy: will proactively reach out to Sue H and offer help with work.
- Ann: will ask Sue H if she's talked to Sue Laub to see if she's still doing it.
- Cath: this was a job Sue Laub could fit in among her other jobs so it worked for her. If it no longer does, we can make other arrangements. Amy: we're not pushing her out but giving her the opportunity to adjust if it's not working.
- Amy: alternatively, individual groups need to know that they have to clean up after themselves and spread the load of cleaning up.

Publicity:

- Our Facebook page has continued to grow this month. We had more "likes" to our page and more people have been clicking on our posts.

03/30/2022 7:56 AM		We will be welcoming new church members on Palm Sunday. If you			140		2 6	 
03/26/2022 9:43 AM		Great news! The BAND will be performing the music LIVE this			178		5 13	 
03/19/2022 10:16 AM		Join us for in person worship Sunday at 10am. The bulletin and			104		4 4	 
03/14/2022 8:27 AM		Thank you to everyone who donated to the collection of toiletries			97		0 6	 
03/11/2022 8:55 AM		Join us for in person worship service at 10am. You can find the			104		5 2	 
03/08/2022 8:30 AM		Photos from Brookline Community Church, Brookline, NH's post			211		0 14	 
03/04/2022 7:35 PM		There will not be in person worship this Sunday, March 6. Rev. Cath is			127		3 3	 
03/01/2022 8:47 AM		Join us for (in person) Ash Wednesday service at 7pm. The			98		1 3	 

- Our website had 17 unique visits this month.

New or Other Business:

- None

The meeting was closed in prayer at 9:31 am by Rev Cath.