

BCC Cabinet Meeting Minutes

Date: 07/10/2022

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
Rena Duncklee	Treasurer	Y
Susan Haight	Trustees	Y
Bill Dunbar	Finance	Y
Jill Aitken (Zoom)	Deacons	Y
Megan King	Fundraising / Outreach	N
Candy Tiner	Publicity	Y
Peter Bretschneider	Assistant Moderator	Y

The meeting started at 10:22 am with a prayer from Rev Cath. We had a voting quorum.

Calendar Review

- July 14, 2022 – 6:30 PM Discernment Discussion
- July 17, 2022 – Potluck Breakfast Service
- July 24, 2022 – Service at the lake
- July 31, 2022 – Service at the lake
- August 21, 2022 – Service at the lake
- August 28, 2022 – Service at the lake
- (Thursday) September, 1, 2022 – 7:00 PM Service at Church (no Sunday Service Labor Day Weekend)
- September 9 - THM
- September 18 – back to 10 am worship

Review of Prior minutes

- Candy moved to accept June’s minutes as published, Bill seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

UMC Split Update

- The three related Resolutions brought to the New England UMC Annual Conference in June were not mentioned on the list of “approved” actions from the meeting
 - 22-227 Amended Procedure for Local Church/Ministry Setting Discernment About Disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church
 - 22-228 Declaring Our Commitment to Love, Liberation, Freedom, and Full Inclusion

- 22-229 Renewing Our Vision as the New England Conference
- Ann: from the Annual Meeting minutes of UMC, there was no mention of resolutions that didn't pass and no new discussion.
- Cath: it seems like they're just trying to figure out how to stay together.

UMC Position on Boy Scouts Update

- Local Cub Scout Pack has closed the bank account using the Church Tax ID
- Ann: has a sense that the UMC has pushed things back to local councils.
- Cath: there was a large webinar from the UMC to roll out the agreement the UMC has reached with the national organization of the Boy Scouts of America. It shows continuing support for BSA. It's a huge undertaking by mid-September that is being driven by Boy Scouts local councils who will set the pace. The first round of agreements will be staggered. It may be a 2 month (variable) and then a year agreement so they don't all have the same expiration date. If organizations are no longer sponsoring local troops/packs, there's nothing for them to do.
- Ann: they are not using the term "sponsor" anymore. The relationship will be either affiliation or a rental agreement. This doesn't really affect us because our local troops and pack have redone affiliation with the American Legion. We don't know when this takes effect but they are with the Daniel Webster Council until then. The last piece to close was moving off our tax ID, which has happened.
- Ann: we are still happy to do Spaghetti Supper, Scouting Sundays, and similar religious activities. We will keep ourselves separate from legal issues.

Church Cleaning

- Marjorie Drake has accepted the position vacated by Sue Laub. We are grateful.

Conference Dues to our two denominations

- Bill described the situation:
 - The UMC only wants to know how many UMC members we have. The UCC only wants to know how many UCC members we have. Sanjay has a spreadsheet that tracks our members.
 - Historically we have gone from 241 to 79 UCC members.
 - Bill looked at how we're reporting and asked the UCC for guidance. Megan: how did we find out church member affiliations? Bill: we asked a few years ago. Cath: it was self-declared.
- Bill walked through his spreadsheet and explained how the UCC recommended we apportion the non-UCC and non-UMC members using the ratio of declared UCC to declared UMC members.
- He noted that we've never paid the dues at the level assessed by the conference. With the new numbers, we should be paying over \$500 but we've been paying \$150 because we don't have enough budget. Ann: is the goal to pay the whole amount?
- Rena: the only bill she gets is from Hillsborough Association. Ann: yes, they collect the dues and pass them along to the conference.
- Megan: how do we decide who's a member?
 - Cath: we have a list of people affiliated with the church. Rena goes through it and lets us know if they gave money in the past year. We also go through attendance data. We give people a grace period of 3 years in case things get busy for them so as to avoid churning the membership rolls. The deacons go through the list once a year before Annual Meeting to add/delete members as needed. We don't keep it up to date in real time but square it away annually. Earlier in the church's history, you couldn't serve on a board without being a member. Membership used to mean more before. In MA, UCC conference dues are no longer based on membership. They are moving away from that model. She doesn't know about the UMC. It's because membership is not something people do anymore. She is happy that we're

updating our list because when she came, we had hundreds of people on the rolls and 20 in worship.

- Re: denominational affiliation, Cath called a bunch of people during Covid to check in and asked about their denomination since she was already talking to them. Some people declared specific denominations while some just said they're a member of this church. If they didn't declare, they were put down as non-denominational. For people she talked to in person during Covid, she probably didn't ask this question.

Budgeting for UCC Disaster Ministries Support

- Outreach has been budgeting for this line item since 2017, when hurricanes in Puerto Rico and Texas happened. Bill asked Amy and Nancy if it's intentionally in the budget and it appears to be a carryover. He saw that we get requests for UCC support for Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) and noticed we don't budget for or contribute to that. He researched it and saw that it's to support Horton Center, Prepared To Serve, etc. – a bunch of NH efforts – and part goes to the national level. He asks if we should do a separate line item for UCC Disaster Ministries and move this line item to OCWM, and move it from Outreach to the Conference section of our budget.
- Cath: was getting questions in 2017 about how we can help the people of Puerto Rico and Texas. She knows from prior experience that cash is the most helpful contribution in an emergency situation. She knows that supporting UCC Disaster Relief definitely went right to helping victims of these bad events, even before we knew the event had happened. For her, having this ministry allowed us to say we were already helping.
- Bill: the OCWM contribution form also allows us to say who it's going for.
- Ann: there is OCWM basic support and then there are special mission offerings under OCWM, like One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), Strengthen The Church, Neighbors In Need, The Christmas Fund. OGHS also goes to disaster relief and missions and collection is usually done around Lent. Strengthen The Church can be seasonal, e.g. around Pentecost, etc. Each collection goes to different things. Neighbors In Need can go to Justice Ministries. The Christmas Fund is primarily for retired clergy who need support. The destination for funds can vary depending on which item you give it to. You can give to OGHS if you want the UCC to decide where the money goes. You can give to Disaster Relief if you want to support a specific disaster.
- Amy: every year, if we pledged a certain amount, would we get to choose where it goes? Bill: OCWM basic goes to NH, national, 4 specific targets, or international and others. He's proposing at least OCWM basic which supports NH targets. If we want to support other ministries, we can do a fundraiser or other special event.
- Sue: can we just change the line item but leave it to the same category, i.e not OCWM Basic. Bill: we can. He just wants all conference-related items to be in the conference section of the budget. We can apportion funds between categories.
- Sanjay: OCWM Basic is different than what Outreach would have been trying to support through Disaster Ministries. He recalls from a long time back that we had disagreed with some of what the NH conference and the national level did a long time back and didn't want our limited funds to support that.
 - Bill: is just trying to consolidate line items under conference stuff.
 - Ann: a lot of good we've received like pastoral search support etc. comes from OCWM Basic. We're the only church with a member on conference staff that doesn't give to OCWM Basic.
- Ann: historically we've given to the ministry of the denomination from which our minister came.
- Jill: thinks it's worth having a conversation at our next annual meeting about maybe splitting between OCWM Basic and OGHS. She agrees that it should be an all-church decision.
- Sanjay: thinks subtotals won't make sense anymore because an Outreach-type expenditure is now adding to the conference subtotal and our "good works" subtotal is missing an item.

- Bill: the UCC offers guidelines, like 10% of local expense budget to OCWM Basic support. We're not going to be able to pay the \$7,000 that would imply.
- Peter: are we proposing splitting between OCWM Basic and Disaster Relief? Ann: thinks we should stick with Disaster Relief for now because that's what people voted for. She doesn't think we should move the line item to the conference section as it's an Outreach activity. Cath: it's only \$100.
- Amy: we can move it for now and at Annual Meeting decide to split it or add more. Ann: she wouldn't use word split. We can say we have a certain amount dedicated to disaster recovery and then bring up adding OCWM basic as a new thing.
- Rena: asks Bill if he's proposing moving the line item now or next year for budgeting. Bill: is getting ready for next year's budget.
- Peter & Sanjay: leave the line item where it is. Amy: but at Annual Meeting, make sure we discuss the new item. Peter took an informal poll: 5 people are in favor of leaving line item where it is, 1 to move, the rest abstain.

Having the THM fund the Outreach Budget

- Bill: got a text proposal from Megan and ran simulations. For the THM to fund the current Outreach Budget, 20% of THM proceeds would be required. He talked to Rena about how we'd do bookkeeping for this. THM already funds the Outreach Budget in that it makes more than Outreach spends. He talked to Nancy who said that's not what Outreach meant by their proposal.
- Megan: they talked about it at the Outreach meeting. Vision: every month they do a THM and advertise highlighting a specific Outreach-supported organization that it supports. When people buy, they sometimes give a little extra or contribute to a fundraising jar for that organization. They don't want to use only 20% of THM revenue. They want to increase the level of our Outreach budget without impacting the church. Peter: summarized the proposal as 20% of standard THM revenue goes to the supported organization but all extra income also goes to the organization. Megan: thinks that all our surplus above the budgeted amount for THM should also go to Outreach work.
- Bill: we can't take 20% of each THM because some meals won't get to their target level. Megan: We could because people might give more when they know where it's going. Amy: 50% of contributions to item collection drives have come from THM customers. They have seen the connection between a specific destination and the level of giving
- Cath: is a fan of increasing the Outreach budget. Amy: they have been asked every year why Outreach doesn't increase their budget but they know the church's financial situation. Cath: will support increasing Outreach budget. What she wants to reflect on theologically is that she doesn't want church members' annual support to not be supporting Outreach. i.e. if THM supports all of Outreach, then there's a realization that pledges don't go to Outreach. She wouldn't want her monthly donation to the church to not have any contribution to Outreach as that's part of why she gives. What she's seen in other churches is that there's great fundraising supporting Outreach. Someone leaves, fundraising sputters, and now they have to support Outreach without that element.
- Megan: when she sends out THM information people ask what it's for and she has to say to keep the lights on in the church. Cath: when Carol was doing breakfasts that supported specific groups, we had to be careful not to overshoot. The key is to not stop giving as a church and leaving that to the THM customers.
- Bill: The Outreach budget has to be non-zero so the line item doesn't disappear.
- Megan: this has her passionate: we'll do add-ons every month, etc. She feels this is how we're going to grow the church. She would love to be able to mentor someone to do a different event at another time of month because we have so many people who want to help.
- Cath: this can't just be decided based on accounting logistics. Part of our church giving has to go to Outreach. Amy: nothing prevents us from highlighting an organization now.
- Bill: from the finance perspective, Rena gets a bag of money from THM. Normally she takes out expenses and the remainder is considered THM revenue. Now we'd have to figure out how to handle

apportionment of revenue between church and the supported organization. Megan & Amy: we have to figure out the logistical issues.

- Sanjay: would be disappointed if we allow logistics to kill what feels like a significant act of faith.
- Peter: the easiest way to make this work is to write down next to giver's name the dollars given to a specific function. At the end, we provide a number to Rena as the amount that goes to the organization. Now we have a record. For veterans, it would be great to have someone like Greg D'Arbonne tell people at THM where their money goes. More generally, we could bring someone from each organization in when we raise money for them.
- Cath: we could transfer cash from the bag of money to the organization support jar to do accounting. If people pay by check, transfer the equivalent amount of cash that they intended to go to the organization from the bag to the jar.
- Ann: since we have the expected amount for THM budgeted, can't we use the surplus each month to go to that organization?
- Sanjay: we should have a separate conversation to decide how to approach this. He's hearing a lot of assumptions baked into this conversation that should be questioned. He doesn't like things like a fixed 80/20 General/Outreach split being assumed. We should have a group (Outreach + Finance + interested parties) work out a considered proposal and bring it back, not go with the best solution we can get in 20 minutes.
- Cath: clearly we think it's a great idea and want to support it in a way that's faithful to the larger mission of the church. Maybe propose something and try it out in September.
- Jill: thinks it's wonderful idea and supports it. Thinks we should collect extra money for Stand Down for Veterans in September and trust that we'll figure things out.

Fundraising Events

- Christmas Raffle
 - Amy: re Christmas Raffle, Donna has started collecting items but definitely needs another person. It will be the same as last year but all prizes will be in and numbered with no more last minute additions.
 - Cath: is there someone she or Ann should approach? Amy: stay away from the THM group and Outreach. Peter: asked Megan to think about if any of the eager helpers she mentioned during the THM Funding discussion might be appropriate.
- Breakfasts
 - We had downplayed it last month due to the rising cost of food.
 - It was already viewed as a poor cost/benefit fundraiser.
 - Decision: let it go for now.

Covid Guidelines

- Nothing new to be done.

Faith Formation

- Crafts: Susan will pick it up again in September.
- Amy: thinks it's been a success with people taking items. Susan agrees. Ann: it's been helpful to have something to give parents who bring kids to church.
- BSA: We are still supportive of their religious-themed events/activities.
- Book Study: Cath will do one in the Fall.

Live music

- Cath: Yi Fan & Jocelyn are willing to play. She's working with the deacons to find supplemental musicians.

- Over summer, it's likely to be a mix of live and prerecorded.

Deacons

- Deacons met on July 7, 2022.
- Prepared for potluck brunch service to be held on July 17, 2022.
- Continued discussion of ideas about different ways we could try worshipping, including the things we have tried recently.
- Decided not to meet in August. Will meet again in September.
- Meeting additions
 - Potluck: bring dish if you can.

Finance & Treasurer's Report

BCC YTD Financial Summary	Actual Income	Actual Expenses	Income vs Expenses + / -
June	\$33,466	\$46,882	(\$13,416)

Cash Reserves: \$58,787.91 (threshold < \$48,362.00)

- Nothing new to add after prior discussions.

ONA:

- Nothing to report.

Outreach Report

- Senior Luncheon-Oct 29th
 - Celebrating 15 years
 - Turkey Dinner
 - Angie the Brookline Welfare Officer will be our guest speaker
 - We are reaching out to the community to collect names to add to our luncheon list and to let people know they are welcome.
- Stand Down for Homeless Veterans event on September 23rd from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM hosted by Harbor Cares/Harbor Homes at 45 High St in Nashua.
 - On that day Homeless Veterans will have access to meals, haircut, clothing, employment & housing opportunities, mental & physical health resources etc.
 - Starting the beginning of August, Outreach will be asking for donations of New Socks & underwear, blankets, long sleeve sweatshirts and sweatpants, gently used coats, hats, gloves, any items needed for people living on the streets. These items to be handed out on the day of the event.
- We continue to be in contact with our organizations with any needs they might have now that they are beginning to get back to a new normal since Covid.
- Cath: can we make sure we do something to celebrate the 15 year anniversary by doing something 15 themed?
- Susan: notes Senior Luncheon was the first use of the Ella Anderson fund, which expected that the thing it started will be sustained. 15 years is a good record.
- Amy: It's getting difficult to support the Food Pantry because they're getting very specific about their needs. Outreach is switching to ask for a \$5 donation.

- Bill: has worked at Stand Down for a few years and it's eye opening to see the veterans coming in and what they're going through. He described personal stories he's heard as welcome & routing staff. Amy: they have guest speakers like Mayor of Nashua, Governor, etc.
- Cath: suggests seeing if there are people at the church who would go if they could go with Bill/Amy, etc. Sometimes the obstacle is having a familiar face or a ride.

Pastoral Relations

- Nothing to report

Trustees Report

- The kitchen sink was being fixed during the meeting by David Drake.
- The side door to the lawn has been replaced but a gap needs to be addressed. Susan has emailed the contractor.
- No other major issues.
- She's afraid to climb up and check the ceiling of the deacon's room to see if the water stain is growing.
- Is watering plants.
- Peter has offered to do some bush trimming and has fixed the lock on the parking lot side door.
- There is a lock on the nursery door. Donna has handed out some keys.
- Lawn Side door: the original handle is back on (same key as other outside doors) but the deadbolt is different. There are extra keys for the deadbolt.

Minister's Report

July 2022 (6/6 through 7/3)

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 26 hours/week, which puts me between 63 hours under to 42 hours over since Sept. 12. This time last year, I was averaging 27.5 hours/week.
- Pastoral counseling in person & on the phone.
- Helping with garden clean up on Saturday, June 11.
- Helping wrap up Sue Laub's last weeks of service at the church.
- Met with Mike Weinrich to make sure he knew one of his staff did a really nice job at a graveside service.
- Attended Open House to wish Tad Putney well in his retirement.
- National webinar meeting on UMC settlement with Boy Scouts of America.
- Published worship plan for July, August and first two weeks of September.
- Helped Candy pick out the Christmas bulletin covers, before all the good ones are gone.
- Met with Yifan to discuss the summer music needs.
- Beginning worship plan basics for September – November.
- Explaining how I came up with the denominational affiliation on the clerk's spreadsheet.
- Cheered on the barbeque take home meal crew! (Self-interested to be sure, because it was so good!)
- Tried to attend the Andres Fundraiser for Ukraine, but they didn't have much going on at the bottom of the hill.

Services:

- 6/11: Telling Wisdom from expertise and using discernment to make sure we start from Wisdom.

- 6/19: Sometimes the best thing God can do is call us, not heal us. God helps us take the necessary first step.
- 6/26: Digging in & Giving in when you know you're right are both faithful actions.
- 7/3: Making a joyful noise even in the face of a dividing country because God is with us like a nursing mother.

Regular Meetings:

Cabinet, Clergy Support

Give her ideas we'd like her to try.

Publicity:

- Candy had to leave before we got to this section.
- Nothing to add.

New or Other Business:

- None

The meeting was closed in prayer at 11:49 am by Rev Cath.