

BCC Cabinet Meeting Minutes

Date: 10/9/2022

Submitted by: Sanjay Cherian

In Attendance:

Name	Role	Voting?
Catherine Merrill	Minister	N
Peter Bretschneider	Assistant Moderator	Y
Sanjay Cherian	Clerk	Y
Rena Duncklee	Treasurer	Y
Susan Haight	Trustees	Y
Bill Dunbar	Finance	Y
Amy Razzaboni	Outreach	Y
Jill Aitken (phone)	Deacons	Y

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

Calendar Review

- Remove band from Monday nights. This helps because the Boy Scouts want to meet Mondays.
- Ghost Train – the stove people at end of the road don't allow signs but they allowed ours. The sign for outside Tevya goes up on Thursday afternoon.
- Senior Luncheon confirmed.
- The library is sponsoring Trunk or Treat on Oct 29th at RMMS. Cath: wondering if we want to be part of it, handing out candy. It's from 2:30 to 4 pm.
 - Peter: they'll have police, fire, many other groups. Kids go by in cars from stop to stop and pick up candy.
 - Susan: will set up a table and be open to anyone else who wants to help. Jill: town trick or treating is on Oct 31st.
 - Peter: thinks it's good to bring the church's sandwich board sign to have identification.
 - Sanjay: does this mean we still do Trick or Treat here?
 - Peter: expected Trunk or Treat was in addition to what we would normally do
 - Susan: wouldn't be able to be here for 31st.
 - Cath: we'll announce both and see if we get volunteers.
 - Jill: it would be good for us to participate in both. Her family will contribute candy but maybe not volunteer on the day because they'll be out with the kids.
- Next THM is 11/4.

Review of Prior minutes

- Susan moved to accept the amended minutes, Candy seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Stewardship Campaign

- Cath: Ann was managing it with Kevin. She has seen a draft of the letter, which looks fantastic. The campaign starts next Sunday and runs through mid-November, maybe the 13th, possibly the 20th.

Letters will be ready to go. Candy: hasn't seen a letter yet. Cath: is trying to stay out of the production process.

UMC Split

- They're still working on it.

UMC position on BSA

- From Ann's agenda: We need to update our Facilities Use Agreement for the Fall and provide a copy signed by the Boy Scouts to the UMC; I already have their current Certificate of Liability Insurance.

Having THM fund the Outreach Budget

- Bill: earned \$885 last month for church and sent \$470 to Stand Down for Veterans
- Amy: hasn't followed up with Andrea yet. Bill: talked to a board member who said this Stand Down was one of the better events so far. Andrea who runs it is back because they received the grant that pays for her.

Fundraising Events

- Ghost Train Spaghetti Dinner
 - asked Candy to put it on the calendar, Facebook, etc.
 - Susan: received an unexpected \$100 donation from a classmate of Russell's.

Christmas Faire

- The Christmas Auction committee is looking for donations to the following prizes:
 - High Spirits (various bottles of alcohol, like vodka, gin, whiskey, etc.)
 - Family Time (games, puzzles, books, etc.) We have a Uno card game so far
 - Sugar Rush! (Any candy)
- They already have over 20 prizes promised
- Donna has been canvassing the local businesses

Covid Guidelines

- No real change

Faith Formation

- Cath: has reached out to all 3 families. All are interested and she's waiting for one to respond on timing. If last week's visiting family comes again, she'll engage them. A proposal for the first month's lesson was sent to Ann to review. They will build a curriculum from there.

Live Music for worship:

- Is Jocelyn coming back? Cath: she's expecting to come back in Fall after a busy summer. Cath will work on a schedule with her. The deacons are working on a schedule with other musicians.
- Peter: [to Sanjay] any thoughts regarding the church band? Sanjay: yes, will talk to him later. Cath: Christmas Eve is important for having live music. Sanjay: will be trying to close the loop on that today.

Energy Audit

- Susan: passed some information on to Kevin Aitken.

Annual Meeting Nominating Committee Slate

- Peter: there are a substantial number of open positions. Asks if Cath is looking for people to fill positions. Cath: Ann is taking the lead. Cath will talk to people as they're identified. She's trying to push this responsibility onto lay leadership as this is a skill that will need to persist after her tenure. Ann thinks this is the right call. There was consensus in the room agreeing with this view.

Constitutional update wording

- Bill: because of the UMC split, he started looking at what happens with our trust funds. He sent the current wording of our constitution to the person who handles our trust and the conference minister. They said they've never seen any wording that way in any other church. He looked back through our constitutions and found that the trust fund wording was put in in 1961. He went through all our trust funds and identified what happens if we decide to disaffiliate from the UMC. He found that all trust funds are held by this church. Some are designated to revert to what their will said if we close. The James Hall trust goes back to his wife and children. The EC Jensen goes back to the heirs. The Emily Stickney trust has the NH Conference as trustee but we get all the interest. The Julia Gilson (under Brookline fund) is transferred equally between the UCC and UMC.
 - Cath: asked for and received clarification that this reversion is only if we stop being a church. Bill: clarified that our wording says it happens if we fail to function as a church for 3 years. He read out the relevant section of the new wording. It only reverts if we close. If we split with the UMC, trust remains the same.
- Rena: does this mean conference would find the heirs because it would cost more to find heirs than the amount of money in the trust. Bill: yes.
- Cath: is the answer to his research on trusts that if we split with the UMC, nothing happens? Bill confirmed it. Cath: and is the next step to determine what happens to our trusts if we stop being a church? Bill: yes, and confirming that all assets are held by this church as long as we are a church.
- Peter: confirmed that "split" means split with UMC. Bill: explained the UMC internal division goings on. He confirmed that whether or not we split with the UMC, church assets remain held by this church.
- Sanjay: confirmed that the 3-year countdown is if we cease to operate as a church for that long. Bill: yes, and this proposal will be reviewed by annual meeting. He gave an example of not having sufficient funds to provide weekly services but not officially closing. Sanjay: what happens if we vote to close? Bill: in that case, the trusts immediately follow procedures for closure.
- Peter: what's Bill asking of us? Bill: he just wrote it to Ann on his initiative. He doesn't know what she wants to do. Cath: thinks as a body, we should support this but bring it to Annual meeting for a vote. Any issues here?
 - Susan: no but the proposal needs corrections, like replacing "Brookline Community Church" with "Church of Christ dba Brookline Community Church."
- Cath: the only objection she sees is that if we go out of business, why didn't the UMC get a vote? From her perspective, if we're so out of business that this happens, there's so little money left, we might as well give it to one denomination and this congregation primarily identifies as UCC. Susan: yes, and UMC internal discord shouldn't dictate our choices.
- Peter: do we need to vote on this as a board? No, but we clearly have a consensus to bring this to Annual Meeting.

Finance & Treasurer's Report

BCC YTD Financial Summary	Actual Income	Actual Expenses	Income vs Expenses + / -
September	\$65,650	\$67,702	(\$2,052)

Cash Reserves: \$49,269.82 (threshold < \$48,362.00)

- Bill: we're still down \$2000. We got our annual gift of \$20k last month, which helped out a lot. We're still running behind but this is the month the big fundraisers start coming up. He thinks we'll be okay by the end of the year. We received a letter from the lawyer that probably next year, we'll get something from Sandy Garvin's will.

Deacons

- Met last week 10/2. [Jill will send me notes]
- Working on live music
- Looking at Christmas – planning one service on Christmas Eve, working on the timing.
- No worship on 12/25.
- Carol sing and pot luck (Cath says 12/11)
- Service of Lessons & Carols on December 18th
- Planning worship with communion on 1/8/23
- Had fire drill in September
- Will be looking for helpers for Christmas Eve as greeters, etc.

ONA update

- No update

Outreach Report

- October Food Drive to benefit the Brookline Food Pantry & Share
 - Lynn Giblin will make sure the food drive goes into H-B newsletter. She will be our go-between for that.
- Senior Luncheon-Oct 29th @ 11:30
 - Turkey Dinner
 - Celebrating 15 years
 - Guest Speaker Angie Dacey – Brookline Welfare Officer
- Outreach will attend a Fundraiser for Home, Health & Hospice to benefit their Community Hospice House
 - Nov 6th - Everyone on Outreach attending so will not be in church that morning
- Emailed Angie Dacey (Brookline Welfare officer) to let her know we would like to supply Thanksgiving/Christmas food baskets if needed.
- SHARE Christmas – We will be adopting families
 - Buying gifts & gift cards
 - For the past couple of years, we have only been collecting gift cards. This year SHARE wants to get back to us buying gifts.
- Sent to Candy for the bulletin: the family in town that got custody of the 2 year old girl is looking for clothes for the girl and her grandmother.

PRC

- hasn't met. Can figure out a time.

Trustees Report

- [Susan had to leave before we got here]
- Peter: asks if the side door lock is still working okay. Nobody had experienced problems.
- Amy: talked to Sue about the burner on the stove.

- Cath: the heat was up when she came in. She thinks the problem was a thermostat battery.
- Peter: fixed the lock on the back room so Donna can put Christmas Raffle stuff there. Existing keys should still work.

Minister's Report

- Her hourly annual accounting switches over mid-September. Last year for the first time, she came in at 25 hours per week. Candy: wonders how much her medical absence helped. Cath: it didn't hurt.

Nominations

- Cath: Ann is trying to focus on the fact that we're going to be missing a treasurer, moderator, and the clerk is stepping down. This is a lot of big holes. Last time, we had 7 absences on CE. This isn't a one-off problem so now we have to look at it as a long-term or recurring problem.
- Peter: Donna pitched us to their new neighbors and took them Take Home Meals.

New or Other Business:

- Amy: was cleaning her attic and found "God Bless You" gifts for graduates. Should we store them somewhere? Keep them for Ann to look at. Sanjay: how many do we have? Amy: counted 11. Cath: put them in her mailbox until we can ask Ann. She might know some other church that could use them too.

The meeting was closed in prayer at 9:22 am by Rev Cath.