MIDDLEBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

June 8, 2022

MINUTES

Present: Leanna Maglienti, Elizabeth Gleich, Andy Nagy-Benson, Mal Chase, Ellen Whelan-Wuest, Cathy Chase, Gail Heitzker, Peggy Rush, Robin Bentley, Ian Phair, Michelle Nelson, Bronwen Kent, and Nancy Foster.

Leanna called the meeting to order at 7:33. Andy offered a participatory prayer. He asked us to reflect on the good things that have happened this past year, and asked us to share a word of gratitude that reminds us of these things. There were a lot of nice events/thoughts brought up by everyone present as we went around the room. Andy thanked God for all the good things happening in this Church.

It was moved, seconded, and so voted to approve the minutes of the May 11 and May 19 Church Council Meetings.

We moved to the Treasurer’s report. Leanna asked about the Barberis Fund. It was moved, seconded and so voted to approve the May Treasurer’s Report.

Elizabeth started the staff reports. Confirmation Sunday was really special. Elizabeth is grateful for Jennifer’s leadership with the Confirmation Class. She is spending a lot of time on the Child Care task force and getting ready for the Special Meeting. They are doing their best to keep everyone informed. No real objections, but she said there are concerns that some members have asked about. Ellen said some people feel there have been a lot of changes in a short time. There have also been a lot of positive remarks, like how can I volunteer.

Andy reported that a lot of time has gone into the transition from Jennifer to Eliana. Andy reported that the HOPE fund collection was good. At the end of this month, he will be spending a week in Pittsburg working on his doctorate, and then a week in Maine with the Senior High youth service trip. He then will be leaving for most of the month of July for his annual vacation. He was happy with Andi Lloyd’s ordination. He feels good about where we are now, especially compared to where we were last year, when we were not even open. He is looking for patterns in the conversations he has had with members of the Church and our community. He is still seeing trauma in this community. He remains concerned about people’s spirits. Ian asked about the on-line participation in the past few months.

Board Reports:
Bronwen reported for Missions and Social Concerns. Their meetings are still mostly remote. They allocated funds in April. There is enthusiasm for action Mission events. They are going to try to do the clothing vouchers earlier this year—maybe September. They are pausing the mission moments until the fall.

Ian reported for Trustees. They are still working to line up sub-contractors. Work on the roof should be starting soon. Windows are the other big item. Still waiting for the permit for the solar panels. They are still chasing contractors. They have moved the $500,000 into the Schwab account.

Gail reported for Membership: The information table in the Narthex for visitors has been set up. They are trying to catch people coming out of Church thinking they are not likely to go to coffee hour. They are planning the monthly pot-lucks starting in October. She thinks that is going to be a very good thing. In response to a question, Gail said she thinks her Board will be able to coordinate these pot-luck luncheons.

Robin reported for Pastoral Care. The Youells have joined her Board and they are now full. They continue taking flowers to people after service on Sundays. Their funds are low, but Cathy said there have been some donations.

Michelle reported for Christian Development. Nursery will not be staffed during the summer. They are getting ready to support Eliana in the fall. There might still be one vacancy for Church school teachers for the fall.

New business: Discussion of how to fund youth service trip. Andy said we used to have a line item for confirmation class, but since we don’t, they took some funds from the Barberis Fund. The Barberis Fund has been used to help pay for youth service trips in the past. Andy thinks the system needs to be tweaked. He thinks the trip is about $500 over budget. We need to be more aware of the things that we actually spend money on and put them in the budget. It was moved, seconded, and so voted to authorize spending up to $1,000 from the Barberis Fund to pay for the youth service trip.

Cathy suggested replacing 2 of the signatures on the Church checking account. It was moved, seconded, and so voted to remove Russ Carpenter and Amy Emerson from the account and replace them with Leanna Maglienti and Irene Zaccor.

Mal read a very detailed report on Church Records. He asked for suggestions about what should be saved. Mal would like the freedom to ask some people to help him. He has been going through the cardboard boxes to get an understanding of what we have. We have saved a lot of material over the years, but it is not well organized, and cardboard boxes is not a very good way to store things we want to keep for a long time. He is writing an update to Steve Freeman’s book. There was a good discussion of what to do with the records he has.

The next item was an update from Ellen and Elizabeth. Table 21 will give us an additional $200,000 grant if the congregation votes to approve the Child Care project. This, together with
the previous gift of $360,000 will get the total to $560,000 if the Church approves moving forward at our special meeting on June 19. Ellen noted that we are very fortunate to have this amount of money for this project.

The next item of discussion was the Memorandum of Understanding for the Church to become the fiscal sponsor for this project. This is intended to be temporary because the new nonprofit corporation that will be running the Child Care Center will become a 501 (c)(3) corporation as soon as it is able to do so. Cathy and Irene will be the ones who will be collecting and disbursing the money that comes in from grants. Bill Miller, who is the attorney for our Church, has drafted the MOU. Ellen said they are coming to Church Council now to make it possible to apply for grants. Ian wants to be sure that everything is set up so that we do not get in trouble with the IRS. Ellen said they are trying to be very careful and they will consult an accountant, as well as follow Bill Miller’s advice.

It was moved, seconded, and so voted to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Church and the new Child Care nonprofit corporation which will make the Church the fiscal sponsor for the new corporation.

It was noted that there will also need to be a lease agreement with the Child Care Center, as well as another MOU for the working relationship between the Church and the new center.

Other concerns:

Andy suggested we need to be prepared for a paper ballot at our Special Meeting on June 19th. Andy also brought us the subject of Jennifer Smith’s computer which was purchased by the Church. He checked and the value of the computer is now about $300. She would like to keep it if possible. Mike Roy, from the Technology Committee, advised Andy that it would be best to let Jennifer keep hers, and it would be better to buy a new computer for Eliana. Andy would like to buy Eliana a new computer. We are all good with this and there is money in the budget to do so.

It was moved, seconded and so voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:05.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Foster
Church Clerk