

Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ

Governance Council Meeting, February 7th, 2018 Minutes

Present: Lee Alekel, Mary Grossnick, Trey Holloway (Moderator), Lisa Choate (Moderator Elect)

Ex Officio: Tom Lenhart (Sabbatical Minister), Jan Stohlman (Clerk)

Absent: Casey Fannon, Marc Teerlink, Laurie Mosher, Mary Hallward-Driemeier

Trey Holloway called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm in the Library.

Spiritual Practice

We continued our discussion of the book, A Failure of Nerve, by Edwin Friedman. Lisa Choate led the discussion on Chapter 2.

The following motion was passed by email on February 26th, 2018 and is recorded here.

Motion 18 GC-05 To fill the vacancy of Marc Teerlink, approve Jeanine Derr to complete the year 2018 as a GC member.

Motion: Mary Grossnick Second: Mary Hallward-Driemeier Vote: All in favor

Review and Approval of Minutes, January 10th, 2018

Motion 18 GC-04 Approve the January, 2018 minutes and Clerk of the Rolls Report, 2018

Motion: Mary Grossnick Second: Lisa Choate Vote: All in favor

Financial Review

Trey suggested that each month GC scan the P & L report looking for the areas where the percent of budget is high. If a noted area remains high in the next few months this would be discussed with the person in charge of that expense.

Trey reported that a few pledges came in but not all. Trey will check with Geoff Lija about follow-up with the pledges' status.

Tom recommended that we determine why there are less pledges. Also, he stated we should decide by April/May what level of deficit the church can live with this year.

Stewardship Update and Topics for Service

Trey brought up stewardship topics that could be presented routinely at Sunday service: what is stewardship?, how is it changing?, how much should a person be pledging?, time and talent, what pledges are funding and how contributions help our church school program. Trey will consult with Geoff Lija to discuss ideas and how to present them sequentially.

Other ideas were: could everyone pledge something?, sending individual letters to congregation stating the average pledge amount and what are the costs of the church, thermometer graphs—where we are versus where we need to be, tangible reminders placed in pews, repetition is important, five different modes of outreach to move people from contemplation to action and reminding the congregation of all the activities the church provides housing for, such as AA and Al-Anon.

On Sunday, March 11th, Trey will present, “what is stewardship and how is it changing,” during service. Trey will work with Geoff to discuss what will be presented on March 25th and who will deliver.

Governance Council will write a short summary of GC monthly meetings for church bulletin. Trey will write one for February meeting and GC will discuss future assignments at next meeting.

Future of Staffing for the Building

These decisions will be deferred until a future time when Tim returns from Sabbatical.

Building 2020 Update

The Builder’s Risk Insurance Policy expires March 31st, 2018 and will be extended for six months. The insurance will be cancelled when construction is completed. David Bennett will be meeting with the contractor to get a time estimate of completion. Trey will have updated pricing and estimate of completion date for next meeting.

Board and Committee Assignments

Refer to January minutes for list of Boards and liaisons.

Other Business

Mary G. announced the Church Gala will be in October, not April, 2018.

Plans for special coffee hour Sunday after Easter, for Reverend Tim Tutt’s return.

Trey closed the meeting with a prayer at 9:00 pm.

Submitted by Jan Stohlman

