

Minutes of the Woodridge Congregational Church U.C.C.
Executive Board Meeting
October 16, 2019

Present: Ray Perrotta, Deb Di Chiara, Bob Cole, Carmen Steinbrecher, Laura Dillon, Courtney Lombardi, Grant Southard, Scott Spencer, Marsha Southard

The Moderator called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

A motion was made by Marsha and seconded by Laura to accept the minutes of the September Executive Board meeting as printed. Motion carried.

Stewardship, Buildings and Grounds: Grant reported Cadence Academy has asked permission to place bollards (approximately 24 with dark green covers) on the parking lot side of the Parish House along the chain link fence. The purpose is to increase the children's safety as they transition to and from the playground. The committee reviewed their specific proposal and feel it is a reasonable request. Cadence Academy has also asked permission to install boulders along the Jackson Road portion of the playground fence for increased safety. Grant has requested they provide more information on the size and placement of the boulders. He has asked them to incorporate an adjacent sidewalk in their plan in order to create a safe walkway for pedestrians. Executive Board members agreed with SB&G's decision to allow the installation of bollards. The request for installing boulders will be addressed by SB&G when a specific plan is provided by Cadence Academy. Grant also reported the garbage disposal in the kitchen is now operational and the plumber is still working on dishwasher. A new printer has been purchased for the church office. Bob Cole provided Grant with a list of companies that might be able to provide estimates on replacement windows for the Parish House. Planning for that project has not yet started. Scott reported the parking lot directly across the street from the sanctuary will have parking restrictions on Sunday mornings once Seven Stars bakery opens. Members of the congregation will have to park closer to Chelo's restaurant or use the lower parking between the Parish House and the Masonic lodge.

Membership and Fellowship: Courtney reported the committee is considering sponsoring a Bingo coffee hour. It would most likely take place in the spring and is in the early planning stages. The Girls Scouts have offered to help at this year's bazaar; Courtney would like to know the ages of the children to determine their level of ability to assist. Scott suggested she contact Bonnie Tate since she is one of the scout leaders. Discussion took place on how to dispose of useful items left from the bazaar.

Christian Education: Laura reported they have consolidated Sunday school classes (Kindergarten thru 5th grade). There is potential for a large group, but it has worked

well so far. The middle school class attendance has been sporadic. They are working on ideas to spark student interest and increase participation. Trunk-or-Treat will be Friday, October 25th. The committee is hoping to decorate 15 trunks and is asking for candy donations. Hope Cahill will be taking some compensatory time for the extra hours she worked this summer to prepare for the new school year.

Service: Bob Cole reported committee members worked at the Interfaith Food Pantry on October 12th. Church members also participated in “Church Beyond the Walls” on October 12th. Service’s annual Thanksgiving basket effort will take place again this year and assembly dates will be either Sunday, November 17th or 24th. Scott asked if the middle school Sunday school students could assist with the assembly process; Bob agreed to let them participate. Courtney will look into providing prayer squares for the baskets.

Treasurer’s Report: Ray submitted and reviewed his written report. As of September 30th, expenses are within normal limits and income is higher than what would be expected this time of year. Flower reimbursement is still problematic. The Vanguard account earnings are up. Overall, the church is doing well financially.

Worship: Deb reported the committee will be meeting on November 12th to begin planning for Advent and Christmas. World Communion Sunday went exceptionally well and the potluck lunch was well received. The Korean Church members were very happy and extremely grateful for the day. Starting in November, a member of Worship will be assisting Scott with serving of Communion. Eric informed Scott the piano needs to be tuned and he will have Dan set up a date to have both pianos attended to. Two hand chimes need to be purchased; Ray stated there are donated funds to cover the cost. The Thanksgiving Interfaith Service will be held at Woodridge on November 24th at 3:00 p.m. An ad hoc committee will organize a small fellowship following that service.

Minister’s Report: Scott reported The First Warwick Church U.C.C. does not have an ordained minister at this time. Scott is currently mentoring and advising the church’s lay leader.

Pastoral and Staff Relations: Marsha reported she and Ellen Hunt met with Dan Blackford and discussed items related to role as the church’s administrative assistant. The committee will be meeting on November 3rd to discuss staff salaries and search committee recommendations. They will be meeting with Scott on November 17th.

Moderator's Report: Carmen reported on the Music Minister search committee's progress. Pastoral and Staff Relations committee will assist the committee with creating a job description and compensation package.

Motion to adjourn was made by Grant and seconded by Bob. Motion passed.
Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40.

Respectfully submitted,
Marsha Southard, Senior Member-at-Large