

2022.09.01 Committee of the Whole/Leadership Circle Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Ben Jacques, Paul Roberts, Julie Roberts, Aaron Olapade, Wendy Miller Olapade, Christy Miller (Quorum reached)

Reviewed Minutes from last meeting (medfordchurch.org/minutes); voted to accept the minutes based on affirmation of those in attendance

Christy Miller presented for partnership membership. Christy is invested in the mission and purpose of Sanctuary, attends worship, is a member of the Arts Team, taken leadership of same, designed with the team the Lasting Look show, works with Staff on branding, marketing, and new newsletter design; Partnership moved by Paul, seconded by Ben.... ***Unanimous approval of Christy as Partner/member***

Talked about Sanctuary Investments with Paul R. Trustee – noted concerns about market, Chinese Real Estate crash - nothing we can do about it, UCF very aware of the multiple global market situations and practices conservative philosophies.

Further discussion about the HVAC and Energy consumption of church/parsonage.

- Motion to proceed with replacement of Oil Tank at Parsonage in light of information from the oil company that there is a leak. Ben, seconds.
- Paul - we should have the mass save audit option to get further information; with changes in state and federal laws in the past few weeks it is important to consider; ie: no new buildings can be equipped with gas (climate change concerns) no new oil furnaces in new build is, electric only, certain things are subsidized, compensated; possible that solar sourcing can be accomplished at no capital cost
- Ben will arrange with Charmaine to implement a Mass save audit (WMO to text cell)
- Ben will also call Mass Interfaith Power and Light
- WMO to call Charmaine to help with oil tank implementation
- Paul - looking at all the alternatives; is sanctuary HVAC gas and electric; are we totally responsible for HVAC; can we find out what the situation is
- ***Unanimous vote to replace oil tank.***

Sanctuary Sign – expecting a proposal from vendor to be presented next month

Admin Staff – 2023 budget approved to replace Olivia but Tom and Wendy currently managing transition of communication, web, social, data, and fundraising interface right now to best

understand what the need is; and what changes are happening due to partnership transitions (economy of scale)..

- Paul - staffing hard to find, ie: restaurants are closing, etc.
- Christy - I think the best way to think about this, position agreement of exactly what is needed, contract, present, crowd sourced with members - been doing stuff with band aid, if you need help, I(christy) can help. Sweet spot may be older people who are ready to cut back; even students are a problem as they are focused on getting schoolwork done. Need to source some support to get clear.
- ? about what Charmaine does – finance, purchasing, and vendor negotiation, as well as help with food distribution and photocopying
- Discussed the unfolding distribution of pastoral staffing of ministries:
 - Tom 75% & Wendy 25% of preaching and worship themes, Website and Social Media via Post Planner; negotiating with musicians and Sunday School Staff
 - Wendy 75% & Tom 25% of Newsletter content/OMW, Sanctuary programs (arts, outreach and mission, civic engagement, networking, equity and justice, and formation study and care circles)
- What about the physical presence of gallery? Is the space as a welcoming presence on the street still part of our vision? To be determined...If there is program and vibrancy the people will be there and sanctuary will have/be a destination. But post covid it still needs to be about the events, shared activities, circles, etc.
 - faith and film
 - grief club
 - have events and it will feel like sanctuary is open
 - Pop-Up Open studios
 - community, gathering, etc.
 - talked about the example of roots cafe in Maine - example - but we do not have capacity and may have missed the window with Medford Brewing as a gathering place.
- Christy will help to flesh out what we need and we how to find.

Tech Sunday morning staff – must find! if we don't get anyone from shortstop, will look for a college of HS kid.

Access to the Newsletter – People are not clear about what happened, need to advise what to look for and what to “receive”

- send out a note to congregation via Breeze to let people know this is happening; specify what to search for.
- Invitation to Opt into Worship Link email.

Food Ministry – continue this great need!

- Bread of life - every other month, inflation, more food insecurity; can this become every month with more people?
- Specific meal still under development - Chili was good, but not enough pasta - need to show tom size of pan

Noted upcoming ministry plans

- in dialogue with Tufts Chaplaincy/Community Service to help them find Community service Opps for students in the city! Interest
- Cummings LOI for Middle school summer camp-leadership-service intensive with CCSR/Schools/Tufts,
- Rally Sunday - Sept 11; need to ask f or commitment from our membership to attend worship 2X per month and participate in CommWhole/LC meeting
- Reviewed Pending Arts and Film schedule – and invite to same to be distributed at Rally Sunday and Mystic River Celebration

Discussion and Questions about Capacity, LC Leadership, and COW/Program Engagement

- This year is a turning point
- Where are the younger families we haven't seen all summer?
- Last few weeks it felt like the old days - no one in worship, but the city itself is deserted in the summer, as school starts, people come back into return, we are not post covid, we still need to do hybrid – but ask people to invest for six months to see if we can make a go of this church
- Next year – consider closing for August vacation - maybe creative ways to deal with august dip; we have UU friend close for whole summer
- even when only the eight people worship is still enriching
- Plans to bring the online people into worship again
- Also noted 2022 Christmas New Year on Sunday – yes, cancel those Sundays.

Submitted by Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade, 09.01.2022