

2023.08.02 (August) Committee of the Whole/LC Meeting

Sanctuary UCC Annual Meeting voted to implement a [Committee of the Whole Model of Governance](#); wherein all members and partners of Sanctuary UCC are now "elected" to do the work of the Leadership Circle. Here is the Mission and Ministry Plan that will guide that work this year: [2022.2023 Mission and Ministry Plan](#).

Minutes from previous meetings. [Ministry Meeting Minutes Archive](#)

[Join Zoom Meeting](#); Meeting ID: 825 8167 0394; Passcode: 487224; By phone: 309.205.3325

Agenda/Minutes

In attendance: Julie Roberts, Paul Roberts, Erin Sennott, Paul Sennott, Aaron Olapade, Wendy Miller Olapade, Ben Jacques, Christ Miller, Becky Jacques, Branween, Terri Bracy, Joanna Ostrander

1. Opening Circle and Prayer - Rev. Wendy; 7:02 - Opening Prayer; Psalm 52

Rev. Wendy opens up with a prayer for the group to reflect upon throughout the meeting and the coming days and how this message can inform us. Psalm 52 deals with {How we use our words carefully, and how we can use them for justice}.

Rev. opens up the discussion and asks participants to consider how words affect them and in what ways we may have lost the direct line to God due to the noise of our lives.

2. Review Agenda/Your Hot Topics/Recruit Meeting Clerk; 7:15

Quick rundown of the forthcoming agenda; budgets, personnel responsibilities

3. Business Reports; 7:17

a. LC/COM Meeting Minutes

- i. [2023.06.07 June Meeting Minutes](#)
- ii. *No Meeting in July - as per LC/COM Vote*
- iii. Rev. calls for a motion to approve the June 6th Committee of the Whole meeting minutes
 1. Motion from Branween to approve the minutes, Erin Sennott seconds the motion.
 2. The vote is put forth and voting begins; there is no deliberation and all vote in favor of approving the minutes motion

b. Treasurer's Report

- i. Final year-end reconciliation and implementation of new budget year under construction
- ii. Need volunteer to pursue banking matters with Erin and Charmaine
 1. Citizens Bank West Medford Branch has closed creating a small challenge for Finance Admin regards convenience for deposits.
 2. Brookline Bank may have more flexibility in electronic banking and allow us to give staff access to some of the monthly banking/finance tasks, without giving access to signatory authority, but that needs research;

Brookline Bank is also the bank that Hillside uses. Charmaine now on board as finance staff with Hillside

3. Discuss with Erin a path to move money from Citizens and more of the tasks to Charmaine to reduce tasks of treasurer
4. Due to the closing of the local Citizens Bank branch office, the discussion about moving the church's finances to another branch/bank all together begins. Most present members give their input about the matter, from a practical and technical perspective.
5. Rev suggests we table the discussion until we have more information about the matter/due to time constraints for the current meeting 8/2/23

c. [2023 Clerk's Report](#) (42 members)

- i. Currently 12 Inactive/30 Active Member/Partners
- ii. Propose [Letter of Release](#) to 12 Members who have been inactive/no financial support for more than two years and/or do not support the mission and purpose of the ministry.
- iii. Erin makes a motion to accept this proposal, and Paul Sennott seconds the motion.
- iv. Discussion begins and Rev. explains the bylaws, LC responsibilities, commitment to clear the rolls of inactive members preceding the mergery discussion, and reasoning behind each of the 12 member/patners being considered for release.
- v. Content of Letter adjusted per the LC discussion and agreed upon by all.
- vi. The vote is put forth and voting begins; there is no further deliberation and all vote in favor of approving the letter of release.

4. **Ministry Updates / Reports; 8:20 pm** (Rev. requests that all review the remainder of the ministry updates, highlighting several items in this section)

a. Rev. Tom Parental Leave through Mid-August ([See Letter](#))

b. Rev. Wendy Vacation - August 14 through September 5

c. Worship

- i. Summer Play List - having some fun
 1. Great Guest Preachers/Storytellers; great guest musicians!!
 2. Beach Day - Aug 20
- ii. Hybrid Worship
 1. Danny - Doing Streaming and Camera Work during worship, Youtube editing, Social Media/Advertising - A big help
 2. Bring online crowd into the room for September
- iii. Rally Sunday/Community Picnic - Sept 10
- iv. Return of Monthly-ish Community Meals
- v. Unrehearsed Pageant/Community Meal - Dec 1
- vi. Christmas Eve/New Year's Eve are on Sunday
 1. ? Sunday worship on 12/24
 2. Propose no worship on 12/31
- vii. Ash Wed (Feb 14) / Easter (Mar 31) Fall Early in 2024

d. Arts and Inspiration/Circles

- i. Feedback from Stakeholders
- ii. IAmMigration: A Lived Experience

1. June Event Huge Success (30 artists/120 people in attendance)
 2. Faith and Film: Minari; great to be back; hybrid event with 10 people
 3. Partnership with ILC Malden
 4. Inspired next show with (4) Haitian Artists to continue IAmMigration Theme
- iii. [Notes from last Arts and Inspiration Team meeting](#) with what's next:
1. IAmMigration: Haitian Colors - Gallery Installation (Sept - Nov)
 - a. Outdoor Reception/Celebration with Music & Food
 - b. (2) Art Church Type - Circles with Artists
 2. Faith and Film - TBD
 3. Spoken Word Event (Fall)
 4. Soul Collage - TBD
- e. Food/Micropantry Mission
- i. Maintenance of mission remains low investment/high impact/great participation from community
 - ii. Propose replacement for maintenance micro pantry @ Sanctuary; make it larger
 - iii. Weekly Organic Veggies via Plough and Stars (summer/fall)
 - iv. \$25K - city of Medford ARPA Grant Award
 1. Meals4Medford (7K) - provides food to micropantries
 2. Purchase \$25.00 Cards from Neighborhood Kitchen for fresh food
 - a. Drop-in hours (implement after the veggies done)
 - b. Compensate the staffing to cover the drop in
 - v. Thanksgiving Food Collection - planned again
 - vi. BOL (Bi-Monthly) Great participation from community
- f. Youth Mission
- i. OWL 2023/2024
 1. Grade 5/6, 10 sessions with current facilitator team (Oct 1 - Jan)
 2. Train Sanctuary Staff in 7-9/10-12 (September and October); Kashawna Harling and Danny Aquiar
 3. Propose Grade 8/9, 18 sessions - November through Spring with model to be determined
 4. Watch for grants for this topic
 - ii. am2pm Summer 2023
 1. Limited attendance with great outcomes/experience; we are considering it a learning opportunity and foundation
 2. City Grant of 10K used for planning, and implementation; it built the staffing structure and program model that we will use going forward
 - 3.
 - iii. am2pm 2023.2023
 1. Tufts Grant of 3K - pending for Teen Mental Health First Aid Program to train our own trainers - to deliver as community-wide program in 2024
 2. Make monthly connections through Community Service, Film, and Fun; including the things we already do (meals4medford,
 - a. Film in August
 3. Build some Drop-In Options 2 Sanctuary

4. Grants/Fundraising updates
 - a. No Cummings or City ARPA for this program, this year
 - b. Eventually, we can do some individual fundraising
 - c. Will add the focus of teen mental health to the grant proposals and pursue:
 - i. City of Medford Community Grant 224
 - ii. Tufts Community Grant 2024
 - iii. Eastern Bank - 10K immediate
 - iv. Monarch Foods - tbd immediate
 - v. Cummings LOI - Due September - 100K
 - d. Also look for grants for teen mental health

5. Old Business / Action Items - Tabled

- a. Stewardship Campaign(s)
- b. Parsonage Energy Audit
- c. Proposal for Use of Space?
- d. Elect officers - Vice Moderator, Clerk - [Bylaws Here](#)

6. New Business

7. Next meeting dates

- a. **All Hands Schedule** (*1st Wed, 7 - 8:00pm*)
 - i. September 13 (LC affirms by consensus to delay September meeting by a week due to holiday season and Rev. Wendy vacation.)
 - ii. October 06
- b. **Dynamic Merger**
 - i. Will initiate structure and plan when Tom and Wendy both back
 - ii. Additional Resources Needed?
 1. Legal Counsel
 2. Third party to support the merger conversation, advising on the way - help with power differential
 - iii. Membership rolls @ Sanctuary