Notes from the Coordinating Council Meeting—January 12, 2022

Present: Rev Denis Paul; President Elizabeth Donovan; Chairpersons Elise Bender, Membership (and VP); Etta Zasloff, Communications; Cathy Solomon, Social Justice; Barbara Holzman, Adult Education; Aline Couture, Finance; Barbara Pagh, RE; Mary Fulton, Stewardship (and Clerk); Adria Evans, Worship; Sally Barney, Facilities; Linda Whyte Burrell, Pastoral Care; Betsy Dalton, Personnel and Mary Alice Kimball; Johnnie Rodriguez; Trish Hindley

Elizabeth Donovan, President mentioned the refugee family from Afghanistan that has been resettled in Kingston and the needs that have been identified by Judith McNab (working with Dorcas House) including an instructor in ESL and people willing to give rides. Cathy Solomon is going to follow up on this.

Mary Alice Kimball, Treasurer, spoke about Sara Kaplow's growing duties as Congregational Administrator and reminded all committee chairs how to use the reimbursement form for check requests.

Elise Bender, Membership: The updating of the membership list is almost finalized. The Membership Committee is still in need of a chairperson. There was some conversation about reaching out to visitors and the creation of an online visitors' book on our website was mentioned.

Etta Zasloff, Communications, talked about managing the Zoom account. A guide to using the Zoom account for congregational business has been created and is accessed through the tech tips linked to in weekly newsletter. All group leaders who want to use this account for the first time should contact Etta. Send info for the weekly newsletter to BOTH Etta and Sara Kaplow, include "newsletter info" in the subject line.

Cathy Solomon, Social Justice Committee: Antiracist Team (subgroup of SJC) led by Penny Hall meets biweekly via Zoom and has between 8-12 attendees each time. They are reading and continuing their work, currently involved in a lot of local issues. The SJC is looking for a point person on Climate Justice who could bring issues to the attention of the group. Cathy explained that there is a movement for white congregations to pay a donation or "royality" when they use music from the Negro spiritual tradition. This payment is a symbol of their commitment to racial justice. Conversation ensued about UUCSC possibly doing the same. This will be followed up on with Mike Galib.

Betsy Dalton, Personnel Committee expressed gratitude that all staff positions are currently filled. The committee submitted a proposal to the Board that recommended a one-time bonus in recognition of outstanding service during a difficult time be paid to staff including Mike Galib, Lee Cowan and Sue Rogala. With input from the Finance Committee the Board approved an amount for the bonuses that will be included in the January paychecks. Betsy also mentioned that several members of the congregation have been discussing raising money for an elevator at the church. Mary Fulton shared that a previous Board had researched this

thoroughly several years ago and found the cost to be prohibitive. Though everyone was in support of the idea of an elevator it was also noted that the configuration of the stairs make a simple chair lift impractical. It was agreed that it is worth it to continue to seek information and to gather together all past research including from when the building was renovated in 2008-9. Betsy also mentioned that the Personnel Manual is in need of updating.

Aline Couture, Finance discussed the difficulties of restricted funds. The Finance Committee will be giving a presentation to the Board of where we are anticipated to be financially in 3 years. Tax letters will be mailed this year. The campaign for mortgage reduction is continuing.

Barbara Pagh, Religious Education Committee: RE is continuing to meet outside even while we are having services on Zoom. Lee will be experimenting with the time of RE and is considering a later RE preceded by playtime so adults could attend services. RE wants to do more multi-gen services and activities. A Valentine's Day bulletin board is coming up.

Barbara Holtzman, Adult Education is soliciting information about various opportunities for education of interest to the congregation to be included in the newsletter. She herself will be offering a stress class.

Mary Fulton, Stewardship: Many ideas have been discussed and Mary will have more information about the upcoming pledge drive following a meeting with Rev Denis and committee members Sky Kimball and Debbie Johnson.

Adria Evans, Worship: The committee continues to work hard. There is concern regarding when we go back to in person services. It is difficult for the committee to negotiate with speakers when there are unknown conditions.

Sally Barney, Facilities warned that there is a spot on the ramp to the Oneto Room that gets wet and freezes in cold weather. Sand is available. Committee needs some additional people, perhaps living close to the church, to do small tasks. A person to open and close the building would also be welcome.

Linda Whyte Burrell, Pastoral Care: Major concern at this time is recreating Helping Hands (formerly the Caring Connection) to assist people with occasional rides or meals and to reach out to others by phone, email or cards. Volunteers are needed, especially someone willing to coordinate this team which will be run separately from the Pastoral Care Committee.

Rev Denis Paul thanked everyone for their hard work and their patience with him as he gets up to speed on how things are done here at UUCSC. He noted that the one thing that did not get addressed in our extensive meeting was Small Group Ministries. It was discussed that UUCSC has had a lot of change in this program over the years. It was agreed that this is a very important area and that it most definitely needs attention.

Compiled by Elizabeth Donovan