

TUUC BOT Meeting

November 17, 2022

Attending: Sheila Whybrow, Dolores Fitch, Rev Linda Hart, Holly Gorski, Maria Figueroa, Chris George

Absent: Krissy Kim (Sheila offered to chair the meeting for Krissy)

Guest: Susan Kunkel

Chalice Lighting

Check In

Approval of Minutes - Moved and seconded, approved

Book Review – We discussed some highlights from reading the first two articles. Before next meeting, we will read A Welcoming Congregation Must Be Accessible and A Circle of All. Linda pointed out that there are bios of writers in the back of book.

Ongoing Business

Goals for 2022-23

Building – Sheila Whybrow

Susan Kunkel, Dave Pettit, Sheila Whybrow, Bob Hays.

Two stoves at work - One is focused on making this building work better. The committee is getting prices for new windows, making the building more energy efficient, adding another toilet, better ventilation/new HVAC, and making the downstairs more inviting. Two window people coming to offer options; mechanical engineer looking at heat pump or Heat and Air approach; also met with architect who toured and looked at possibilities for internal remodel.

The second stove is checking to see if there are churches for sale in our potential price range. Susan is looking at churches going bankrupt and found one with 30 members. She found another one that is currently closed with no local congregation. It is the Presbyterian church on Westgate, west of Pearl with an Assessed value of \$0.5 M

The committee is also talking about how to engage the congregation. They plan to provide options and gather input well before any decisions are put before the congregation.

Finance – Linda Hart reported that the bookkeeper is moving quickly through the task of closing out the last two years of books and transitioning us to QuickBooks. She should be done by the end of November. Then, we can start the books for current church year in the new system. She has also resorted our chart of accounts to be more logical.

Linda and Holly will work on a job description for the new part time administrator.

Mission, Vision, Values– Linda Hart

Tandi cannot help us with mission, vision etc. Linda has contacted Anne Scott, on the regional staff, to see if she can help us, maybe around February

Covid Next Steps Committee Update/Proposal – Maria Figueroa

We had a lengthy discussion of the issues around the church changing our Covid response. Maria wants us to remember that Covid-19 is now endemic, we have to decide what is sustainable in the future, and we can go slow and make adjustments, while we are working to keep our community alive. People need to take responsibility for their health, making their own choices. Helpful for people to make their own choices when dealing with/recovering from trauma. Things will continue to change.

We have learned that there are fans in the ceiling which circulate the air, but don't know much more than that yet. CO2 monitor next to the thermostat. We need to understand what the data is telling us and how it could inform our decision making. Maria said she would check into what we are measuring and how we might use that data.

We will send out a letter to the congregation announcing these changes. We will reassess in three months.

While we continue to learn more about air flow and safety in the downstairs space, we want to move the childrens' area in the sanctuary to the social hall area downstairs. Maria points out that the children are in schools and already dealing with the risks of Covid.

Susan wondered why we are focusing on the risks of being in community in the sanctuary, since we have the option of attending church via Zoom. She points out that people are more concerned about being cold than they are of Covid for the hour they are here for the service.

The windows have been cracked, not wide open, for a few Sundays now. Everyone reports it is still too cold in the sanctuary. We have decided to close the windows while still using the fans to keep the air moving.

We are establishing an area set aside for people who want to wear masks and who want to sit with others who are also wearing masks. This will be on the front side of the sanctuary, where

the choir has sometimes been seated. We will put one of the air purifiers in the corner by the sound both to provide additional safety for those seated in the masks-only area.

After considerable wide ranging discussion, these changes were moved, seconded and passed. Linda will put out a special email late this week announcing these changes.

Membership Committee Update – Susan Kunkel – Has recruited Alana Franklin, Penny Douglas and herself for the Committee. Still looking for more on the committee. Alana, Laura Gardner, Sheila Whybrow and Dolores Fitch will each host a gathering in their home on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon in January. These gatherings are intended to help reconnect people in the congregation.

Susan is trying to verify who are still engaged with TUUC. Working the lists and thinking about who are attending in sanctuary, who attending via Zoom, and who have drifted away. She will work to figure out how to update the membership rolls so we have current data to load into Breeze. Maria offered her help.

New Business

Safe Parking Committee Proposal – We reviewed the proposal of the committee to open the downstairs to our safe parking guests on cold nights (following City of Tacoma’s guidance). We noted 7 of the next 10 nights would qualify for the shelter to open. We are not sure how quickly they will be able to set this up.

This proposal limits church access to the downstairs social hall and bathrooms. No one will be granted access to upstairs or the RE rooms. Two TUUC volunteers must be with the guests for the church to be open.

Moved and seconded to adopt this proposal. We want an update to check progress after one month.

Maria updated us that the Safe Parking Subcommittee is no longer a subcommittee of the Social Justice

We prepared thank you notes from the Board.

We extinguished the chalice at 8:25 PM

Thank you notes: NOT to be in final minutes

October - Cindy Hacket, Mikel Kirk, Pat Glenesk, Andrew Eyres

November – Tim Crabtree (social justice, audio, safe parking, website)

Stacey Soltoff – celebrant, social justice, safe parking, religious education for adults