

Executive Council Minutes August 4, 2008

Present: Rev. Susan Henderson, Rev. Sandy Dodson, Nae Pearson, Trish Esposito, Dave Ackerman, Aldene Ault, Tom Gustafson, Linda Hodson, Pete Hotchkiss, Dave Main, Pete Macleod, Dan Pence, Jackie Walters, Anne Weissenborn, Leslie Weyn, Tim White.
Visitor: Chuck Mason.

Moderator Trish Esposito called the meeting to order at approximately 7:33. Rev. Susan Henderson opened the meeting with some reflections on CCC's mission statement.

Tim White moved that the minutes of the Council's July meeting be accepted, as corrected. After a second, the motion passed without objection.

Dave Ackerman moved that the minutes of the Council's special meetings on June 5 and June 26 be accepted as presented. Dan Pence seconded the motion, which passed without objection.

Covenant Committee Update

Chuck Mason reported on the work of the Covenant Committee, which is charged with moving forward with the process of revising the CCC Covenant. The Committee is a working group of the Board of Deacons. The members are: Chuck Mason, Anne Marshall, Dave Ackerman, Mary Stone, and Jane van Maltzahn. Chuck reported that the Committee met on July 26 to plan its work. Chuck asked board representatives to let the members of their boards know that the Committee has begun its work and that members of the Committee welcome comments and questions from members of the congregation. The Committee will host two open conversation meetings about the revision process, Chuck said. The conversation meetings will be held on October 12 and October 26. Chuck reported that the Committee hopes to have a new covenant in place to coincide with CCC's calling a new Senior Minister. The Committee will inform the Congregation of the meetings via articles in NewsNotes.

Update on Reconciliation/Celebration of Ministry

Trish Esposito reported that she had received a response from Rev. Marston and that she had sent a letter to the Committee on Ministry of the Potomac Association. Tim White reported that he, Dave Main, Judy Cox, Jim O'Steen, and Ruth Prindle met with Rev. Susan Henderson to consider further plans for a congregational process that will pave the way for an open and healthy celebration of CCC's ministries. The group was concerned that there might not be sufficient time to design and implement such a process in time for a celebration on October 12, 2008. Rev. Susan Henderson said that she has been in touch with Rev. Noble's family, and that they wish to provide memorial flowers for the altar on October 19. There was a consensus that the anniversary of Rev. Joey Noble's death should be lifted up during worship on October 19. Trish Esposito said that she will appoint a small group to assist Rev. Henderson in planning the worship service. Rev.

Henderson said that Rev. Noble's family will be included in the planning process. With regard to the process of reconciliation, there was discussion of the need to make sure that the congregation understands the context and connection between the various planned events and to distinguish the opportunities for reconciliation from the meetings to undertake visioning to assist the Search Committee. Rev. Henderson said that the reconciliation process might consist of opening the Church on several evenings to offer a listener or listeners for anyone who might wish to speak. Dan Pence suggested that the first week of December, as the anniversary of CCC's founding, as the focus for a celebration of past ministries. Trish summed up that Tim White's ad hoc committee will continue to work on the reconciliation process; a different small group will assist Rev. Henderson in planning for the October 19 worship service; and a celebration committee will be formed to plan a celebration of ministries for early December.

Special Session

The Council met in special session from 8:30 until 9:05. No actions were taken.

Follow-up from July 12 Mini-Retreat

Trish Esposito reported on the Mini-Retreat. Trish said that the participants in the retreat represented a microcosm of the congregation. One item on which the participants agreed was that it was preferable to seek congregational input for the church profile through small group meetings rather than by distributing surveys. There was discussion of how best to structure such small group meetings. No consensus emerged. Trish Esposito tabled further discussion due to the lateness of the hour.

Board, Committee, and Staff Reports

Stewardship--Dave Main reported that the Stewardship campaign has received 206 pledges for a total of \$700,884. Dave said that the campaign realized a 10 % increase in pledging despite fewer pledging units responding.

Church Life--Linda Hodson reported that the Red Cross will hold a blood drive at CCC on October 19. Linda asked whether the Council felt Church Life should proceed with planning an all-church picnic for September 14. There was consensus that the Board should go ahead with plans for the picnic.

Trish Esposito noted that the Boards of Trustees, Outreach and Engagement, Church Life, and Christian Education would be meeting on August 18. Pre-board worship will not be held on that date, Trish said. The next Executive Council meeting is scheduled for September 8; and the Council retreat is scheduled for September 13, Trish reported.

Dave Ackerman moved that a special meeting of the Council be scheduled. Anne Weissenborn seconded the motion. After discussion, a special meeting of the Council was scheduled for August 19.

Rev. Susan Henderson closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:23.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Weyn
Church Clerk