Sixth Avenue United Church UCC

Leadership meeting 2-23-2017, 6 p.m.

Present: Brian Lemaire, Sandy Calkins, Vickie Golobic, Robin Miller, Ann Stoenner (taking minutes), Carol Fields. Chris Gilmore delayed at another meeting with bad weather but called in on speakerphone partway through conversation with Jenny, and arrived later.

Pre-meeting informal discussion of concerns about Chris doing too much - Vickie suggests a conversation with the pastoral relations committee and will reach out to Charlotte.

Jenny Whitcher as ministerial candidate in discernment: Brian said pleasure to have people coming through here on their path to ministry. Jenny summarized her story (having sent her paper previously). Brian asks how the church can be supportive; Jenny and Chris already met, and he wanted her to have that conversation with us Brian says Jenny’s view of her call to ministry is a perfect example of taking the church to the streets. Jenny puts it as pushing the church to be in different containers. Several other questions from members were discussed. Will leadership recommend Jenny for in-discernment process? Chris will write the letter for her if so to begin the process. If we accept Jenny for in-discernment process then we will not have an intern next year. Leadership members thanked Jenny for appearing and telling her story, and will make a decision soon.

Treasurer’s report: budget sheets handed around. Sandy has nothing in particular to bring to our attention; it’s just normal bills. Vickie says it’s important for the congregation to see the bank account balances quarterly and at the annual meeting. Sandy is looking at some things that need to be changed with the new bookkeeper, and feels that it’s the treasurer’s job to make sure the bookkeeper is doing her job, and that has been taking shape.

Wider Church: Vickie says she and Elisabeth Pinsonneault have been talking and will get organized between them who is doing what, and will have a more robust report next time. Elisabeth wants to do WHI only. Vickie attended a meeting with the Denver Inner City Parish.

Inner Church: (Rod and Susie out of town) Chris said liturgists are signed up; we need more signups for fellowship after the service.

Building and grounds: Carol and committee members did a walk-through of part of the building, and are working on a list of things that need to be done. She suggested a church workday on Saturday April 8th which was approved; and would like to organize list of who does what targeted project for the workday, and being more intentional about inviting people to participate.

Brian wants to invite people beyond congregation to do some of the workday tasks that we take for granted: encourage people who use the building to participate both in the work and in creating the list of tasks. Vickie suggests a tenant meeting so they know who leaders are. Brian and Carol mused about a tenant party with musical programs. Chris (now present) says it’s amazing how much enthusiasm the tenants have shown for the Sixth Avenue building and for participating in caring for it. Carol will put together a flyer for the tenants about the workday.

Some discussion was held about how much can Building Committee spend without coming to leadership for approval. Several bids are in some stage of progress and the committee is waiting, particularly on the lighting plan developed last year. Brian suggests that common sense should prevail on which projects need to be approved. Sandy encourages prioritizing the list, and Carol will get bids accordingly on the big projects. Trees, lighting and drainage are the big three priorities for Carol.

Pastoral Report –

Chris shared updates on those in the hospital.

Worship: Robin is preaching this Sunday. Ash Wednesday service will be at the Kirk and Maundy Thursday at Washington Park. A Lent centerpiece is planned without the communion table and with children’s participation to emphasize creation of space for intentions. Diane and Brad the musicians that played here for Advent haven’t found another church they like and want to come here despite distance to play for us; they met with Chris Tuesday about what their participation might look like, maybe once a month. Robin suggests moving pews out of choir loft to make it more versatile for band or choir; also suggests getting some bids on sound equipment. We need to consider how young people visiting/joining are affected by music, and how they feel more welcomed by more upbeat hymns and contemporary accompaniment. (Brad the drummer is an amazing woodworker, Robin says, which tied into a discussion about what to do with the pews in the choir loft.)

Gretchen and Bobbie can hear better with the new microphones; we need to replace a couple more.

Robin met with Association Ministry Committee which approved her shift in call to a local church pastor-type three-way covenant with Sixth Avenue.

Ann said Kimra asked for an Easter banner for her ministry at the Elk Run senior center; Ann actually made four small ones for her, with butterflies (photo shown).

PR Update: visitor bags and visitor book are visible and used; 10 or 12 people have been visiting regularly. Need to assign people to greet and make nametags. Bulletins are done by Curtis on Thursdays (his office hours are Tuesday and Thursday 10-noon).

Chris says he never knows what to expect on Sundays but the blessings have been powerful. He appreciates the freedom to try new things. Asked if he feels like he’s pushing the edge, he answered where’s the edge?

Sanctuary movement - how to participate - next agenda?

Next meeting: second Thursdays 5 PM; March 9th next.