

## **New Brackett Church Worship Committee Minutes**

---

**Date/Time:** Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 4pm (Zoom)

**In attendance:** Rev Will Green, Jeannie Ashmore, Karin Elofson (scribe), Joanne Sterling, Sarah Ingraham, Jan Thomas, Timmi Sellers

- 1) Call to order – Jeannie
- 2) Opening prayer – Rev Will
- 3) November 15<sup>th</sup> minutes approved as distributed.
- 4) Altar Railing now installed – thank you to Rob and Todd!!
- 5) OWL Training – Joanne is still looking for help to move the project forward.
  - a) Joanne spoke to several parents this past Sunday and showed them samples of the teaching materials. It is felt that this kind of one-on-one conversation is preferred over a larger meeting format (for now).
  - b) Jessamine Dana is open to being trained as a facilitator but would like to see real commitment from more parents to justify the significant level of training. Informally, Joanne felt that 6 to 8 children per class would be required to move forward.
  - c) It was recommended that someone talk to Jeannie Gulnick, PIES nurse, to understand what level of sex ed is currently being taught at the school, if any.
  - d) It is also recommended that parents/facilitators attend some existing OWL classes at Portland churches. Timmi volunteered to reach out and see where OWL classes are being taught and when.
  - e) An OWL class (for the children) is 8 weeks long. It consists of two parts, the technical and the spiritual. The spiritual part of the course can be taught as more UUA centric or more UCC centric.
  - f) Rev Will took the action to create a census of the number of kids on the Island in the age range of pre-K through grade 4.
- 6) **Religious Education → Religious Exploration**
  - a) Rev Will and Linda took the action to research RE resources at the last Worship Committee meeting, especially those from the UUA.
  - b) Both Stephanie Birdsall and Devon Kraft have expressed an interest in getting an RE program going on Sunday mornings, and may be willing to participate. We would also be hiring a nurturer.
- 7) **General Topics**
  - a) Welcoming Packet –
    - i) Copies of tri-fold pamphlet and contact card printed and placed throughout the pews and on tables near entrances.
    - ii) Thank you note to be sent to Lisa Peñalver for her tri-fold design work and also for providing the greens used to make the spiral labyrinth. And thank you to Rob for laying out the labyrinth!!

## New Brackett Church Worship Committee Minutes

---

- b) AV Expert from HGW – Arthur MacCallahan has offered to visit NBC and give us suggestions on how to update our recording/amplification system. Joanne will follow up with him in the new year.
  - c) Rory and Rob have started the installation of speakers in the vestry; additional audio wire was needed and has now been received. Team will re-start the project in the new year.
  - d) John Zemenek has greased the bell; Jeannie needs his Florida address to send a thank you note.
  - e) Jessamine Dana to lead a group on *To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings* by John O'Donohue; deferred to the new year.
- 8) Upcoming Sunday Services
- a) Christmas Eve
    - i) Jeannie to get helpers for lighting the luminarias around the labyrinth.
    - ii) It was confirmed that current church masking protocols will be enforced.
    - iii) No food or drink is planned for Christmas Eve, but Jeannie will confirm.
    - iv) Rev Will to ensure there are candles to be lit during the service.
  - b) Christmas Day – Carol Sing and short sermon; no fellowship planned.
  - c) January 1 – New Year theme and NBC Birthday! Jeannie to ensure that Sarah knows where everything is to support communion.
  - d) January 8<sup>th</sup> – Rev Will will be out of town. It is suggested that Mira, Rebecca and Chuck speak on projects that touch their hearts and their associated plans for 2023. The rest of the congregation may also be asked to briefly share their intentions for 2023. The “Creative Naming” session will follow Fellowship; Margo and Joanne organizing.
  - e) January 15<sup>th</sup> – MLK Day theme; Georgette to share her research on early history between the Wabanaki and European settlers.
  - f) January 22<sup>nd</sup> – Chinese New Year – Year of the Rabbit! Rev Will asking for book suggestions that include rabbits.
  - g) January 29<sup>th</sup> – Church of the Wild – revisit the theme.
- 9) Timmi is committed to growing our Lay Ministry, with the intention that services are led by the laity *at least* once a quarter. Rev Will is open to mentoring people in how to prepare and present a talk.
- 10) The Board reviewed the proposal to provide funds to those that would like to prepare food for fellowship but need some financial support. Rev Will is making the Pastor Discretionary Fund available for that; this will be shared with the Assembly.
- 11) Membership Team still needs a leader to pull together whomever is interested. Team does not need to be large.
- 12) Next meeting is **Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 4pm, by Zoom.**
- 13) Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.