

NEW BRACKETT CHURCH - WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date, Time: Sunday, May 23rd, 2:00pm

Attendees: Rev Will Green; Margaret Bragdon; Joy Mills; Karin Elofson - Scribe

1) **Call to Order** – Rev Will

2) **Opening Prayer** – Rev Will

3) **Approval of Minutes** – April 18th minutes accepted as written.

4) **Unfinished Business**

a) Affiliation Process

- i) Linda Capone-Newton, Chris Bearce and Karin met with Woullard Lett from the UUA on Monday, May 10th. Woullard has several outstanding action items including confirming the required number of affirming members and whether NBC would be obligated to give the UUA 50% of assets upon dissolution. Woullard to provide feedback during coming week.
- ii) Ed de Long is putting together a small team to work with NBC on UCC affiliation; next steps expected during coming week.
- iii) It appears that joining the denominations is straight-forward; the challenge is in bringing new messaging into traditional Christian liturgy.
- iv) It is expected that small groups will be formed for creative projects like developing the covenant or designing laity-led services.

b) Sunday Services

- i) As of May 30th, those fully vaccinated will no longer need to be masked while indoors.
- ii) Those who are **not** fully vaccinated must continue to wear masks and will be asked to sit on the left side of the church. Alternating pews on the left side will continue to be roped off; the center and right sections will not be roped off.
- iii) Poster made indicating that services are back inside, but no key found to hang poster in the Welch Street kiosk. Rev Will asking Sue Hanley if she has a key we can copy.
- iv) Service Notes
 - (1) It is often hard to hear individuals during Prayers and Concerns; removing masks will help; Rev Will summarizing what was said helps as well.
 - (2) Rev Will may include recognition of the land as part of opening prayers.
 - (3) Currently we light two candles at the start of services; could this be more intentionally considered the chalice lighting?

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(4) As the Sunday Morning Circle was well received, perhaps we could schedule a few services outdoors during the warmer months.

c) Choir

i) As stated above, as of May 30th, masks will no longer be required indoors for those that are fully vaccinated. **Questions** – does this apply to the choir when singing? At a minimum, can soloists remove their masks when singing? If the choir must sing with masks, can the congregation sing without masks? Rev Will proposes that we follow CDC guidelines as they relate to singing, as long as Jan is comfortable with them.

ii) The choir is also planning to meet one day a week for additional singing time.

iii) New Hymnals

(1) Rev Will to talk to Jan about forming a Hymnal Advisory Team.

(2) Two recommendations are *New Century Hymnal* (UCC) and *Singing the Living Tradition* (UUA). Do we want both??

d) Prayer Shawl Group

i) Prayer Shawl group to start meeting once again at 10:30am on Fridays on the stage.

ii) Emily's helper has committed to getting her to the church and to participate as well!

iii) Notice of the Prayer Shawl group to be added to the Sunday bulletin.

e) Rev Will's and Tyler's Wedding Party – Saturday, July 24th

i) Rev Will would like to lead the service on Sunday, July 25th and move the laity-led service to Sunday, July 18th.

ii) Jeannie, Margaret, Rev Will and Joy to discuss the lay service.

iii) Linda and Karin to sit down with Will and Tyler and get their thoughts about the party.

5) New Business

a) Eucharist Service

i) Joy would like to lead an Episcopalian Eucharist Service, ideally in a circle, either on the front lawn or in the hall depending on the weather.

ii) It was suggested that this would be held during the week, possibly at noon.

b) Nurturer to be re-hired. Rev Will to ask Mica if she is willing and available.

c) Welcoming Visitors

i) Karin offered to generate a tri-fold pamphlet or postcard to inform visitors about our church, including directing them to the website.

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- ii) Greeter(s) to be organized, preferably for a month at a time. Greeter will offer new people a name tag, invite them to fellowship after the service, and will perhaps introduce them at a point in the service.
 - d) Orientation program for new members
 - i) No detailed discussion, but must be developed per NBC bylaws.
- 6) Adjournment**
- a) Meeting ended at 3:15pm.
- 7) Next Meeting**
- a) Sunday, June 20th at 2pm.