

## NEW BRACKETT CHURCH - WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

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**Date, Time:** Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10:00am

**Attendees:** Rev Will Green, Jeannie Ashmore – Committee Chair, Karin Elofson – Scribe, Jan Thomas, Rob Bunton, Joy Mills

**1) Call to Order** – Jeannie

**2) Opening Prayer** – Rev Will

**3) Approval of Minutes** – August 15<sup>th</sup> minutes were approved as written.

**4) Unfinished Business**

a) Covenant

i) Jeannie to contact Linda C-N to see if she asked Liz Rollins to print our covenant in calligraphy for the front hall bulletin board.

ii) Linda would like the church history to be redone with bullet points and placed on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall, along with some complete copies; Karin was reminded that she took that action item.

b) New Plates and Silverware

(1) New silverware in place! Jeannie to determine a better way to organize silverware for fellowship such that people do not need to grab the “working” end.

ii) Second cart and mats in place.

iii) Still to be purchased – dishes and reusable water/juice glasses.

c) Choir

i) New Hymnals – put on hold until we have clear plans to sing together in person.

ii) Karin asked if it was feasible to put the words to the anthems in the bulletin as masking is muffling the clarity. Jan said that wouldn't really work as she may not know until the Sunday morning which songs are being sung based on who shows up. Rev Will agreed to say a few additional words about each song to share the message.

d) Sunday Services

i) Next laity-led service to be November 14<sup>th</sup> (Rev Will out of town). Topic – climate change. Jeannie to talk to Joanne regarding organization.

ii) Follow-up to service on August 8<sup>th</sup> - *Not discussed during September 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.*

(1) Joanne indicates that there is Wabanaki REACH programming specific to churches.

(2) More information is requested about legislation that Caron mentioned.

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- (3) Jan noted that there is already legislation on K thru 12; plan to follow-up with PIES on what is being done there.
- iii) Possible live streaming or recording of sermons was discussed; if include music, may require a church license for media.
- e) Eucharist Service
  - i) Plan to meet *weekly* on Saturday nights at 5pm starting October 23rd.
  - ii) Joy will lead first few; Will offers to help and possibly Rev Jim will also be willing to officiate.
- f) Communion
  - i) Discussion on how to expand concept of communion to include more UUA themes.
  - ii) Joy to research for November 7<sup>th</sup>; may include honoring of ancestors related to All Saints Day / Day of the Dead.
  - iii) Sarah Ingraham offers to bake gluten-free bread for communion.
- g) Nurturer
  - i) Nurturer to be re-hired. Jeannie to reach out to Willow. The nurturer is mainly for toddlers such as Brooklyn.
  - ii) Jeannie will also talk to Stephanie Birdsall about what level of support her children would need during services.
  - iii) There is a concern that older children are not always following the rules of indoor masking; parents are being asked to help with compliance.
- h) COVID Preparedness
  - i) September 26<sup>th</sup> service to be outside; back inside for October 3<sup>rd</sup> (Communion Sunday).
  - ii) Fellowship will be outside as long as weather permits.
    - (1) There is a concern ref lowering masks during fellowship when inside, but it was noted that the hall is well ventilated.
  - iii) Gestures matter. A second air filtering system (R2D2) will be created for the sanctuary.
  - iv) Rob to revisit what is possible from the perspective of air purification. The timing is good as we are entering our 2022 budgeting discussions.
  - v) Rob to send Jan the square footage of the sanctuary; Jan has contacts in other churches who may have workable suggestions for air purification.
- i) Welcoming Visitors
  - i) Cards to be put in back of pews for visitors to provide some limited information, if they wish. Linda C-N has examples to share.

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- ii) Greeters to be organized; Jeannie to prepare sign-up sheet.
- j) Orientation program for new members, as per NBC bylaws – Margaret offered to develop this with Rev Will. *Not discussed during September 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting*
- k) Passing of the Peace – No changes anticipated.
- l) Joys and Concerns – how to help people be heard when they share their joys and concerns.
  - i) Jeannie to arrange meeting with Larry Ducharme and Kevin Rollins about getting existing audio system working. Will is available in evenings of the week of September 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - ii) Those sharing will be asked to stand and face the congregation as best they can.
- m) Logo – to be part of the re-naming effort scheduled for early 2022.

### 5) New Business

- a) Christmas Eve
  - i) Festivities will be held outside, 5pm to 7pm, with service from 6 to 6:30pm.
  - ii) Will likely recreate the labyrinth with luminaries lit on Christmas Eve.
  - iii) The sanctuary will be open for a limited number of people to have time for contemplation; will be hosted to ensure numbers are kept to safe maximum.
  - iv) Based on feedback from last year's event, there should be some form of music at all times. This may be the Choir, Peaks Island Ukes, other Island musicians or external sound system.
  - v) Jan would like to start rehearsing the choir on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

### 6) Adjournment

- a) Meeting ended at 11:24am.

### 7) Next Meeting

- a) Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 11:30am, in person – *however, this may need to be rescheduled due to UCC affiliation activities.*