

## NEW BRACKETT CHURCH - WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

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**Date, Time:** Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 11:30am

**Attendees:** Rev Will Green, Margaret and Fred Bragdon, Jeannie Ashmore – Committee Chair, Karin Elofson – Scribe, Rob Bunton, Jan Thomas, Cathy Gritman, Otis and Mavourneen Thomas, Caron Chess, Joanne Sterling, Joy Mills, Linde Capone-Newton, Chris Bearce, Tyler Schwaller

**1) Call to Order** – Jeannie

**2) Opening Prayer** – Rev Will

**3) Approval of Minutes** – June 20<sup>th</sup> minutes were approved as written; however, it was noted that the UUA chalice will be extinguished at the end of the service rather than remain lit.

a) Caron reminded the team that final minutes need to be sent to her in pdf form for archiving on the website.

**4) Covenant Development**

a) The first part of the Worship Committee meeting was dedicated to covenant development and included people beyond the Worship Committee.

b) A smaller team had met during the previous week to prepare draft covenants based on key words from the meeting held on Wednesday, July 7<sup>th</sup>. Two versions, versions A and B, were distributed to the larger covenant team by e-mail. Copies were available during the meeting for review and discussion.

c) In summary, this is the version being presented to the Assembly on Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup>:

*Our commitment is to be ourselves, together.*

*And so, we strive to practice:*

*Honoring the divine in each of us,*

*Tending honestly and kindly to differences and tensions,*

*Remaining open to change,*

*Fostering a spirit of play and joy,*

*Being accountable for collective care,*

*And trusting the presence of the Divine on our journey.*

*In these ways, we seek to be a beloved community.*

d) Points of group discussion:

i) Version A of the covenant read “Tending honestly to differences.”

(1) From Version B, the word ‘tensions’ was added, noting that differences and tensions are not necessarily synonymous.

(2) The word ‘kind’ was also added from Version B, to ensure we act kindly towards each other during times of conflict.

- ii) There was a suggestion to remove 'play' from Version A as it could be considered irreverent.
  - (1) Others felt that 'play' was a good word and a good goal, one which would lead to laughter and joy.
- iii) Originally, Version A had the line "Pursuing justice."
  - (1) This feels more appropriate as a line of a mission statement and was removed from the covenant draft.
- iv) Originally, Version A had "Trusting G\*d is present on our journey".
  - (1) Some felt that G\*d was unnecessary and wanted it to be spelled out as God.
  - (2) Some shared that many do not resonate with the name 'God' but rather to a more expansive 'the Divine' or 'Divine Spirit' or 'All'.
  - (3) There was a question of whether removing G\*d reflected a fear of identifying with God; the response was that the intention was rather to reflect a larger heart.
  - (4) This conversation was cited as a prime example of 'tending honestly and kindly to differences and tensions'.
  - (5) There was a suggestion to remove reference to a higher being completely and allow for 'divine inspiration' to guide our journeys together.
- e) At the August 1<sup>st</sup> Assembly meeting, a consensus model will be used to approve a working covenant. This will be shared with the UCC team with any appropriate caveats.

**The remainder of the meeting was dedicated to Worship Committee agenda topics.**

**5) Unfinished Business**

- a) New Plates and Silverware
  - i) Jeannie took the action to identify and purchase **60 sets** of
    - (1) 8 ½" luncheon size Corelle plates
    - (2) 18 oz Corelle soup bowls
    - (3) 6 ¾" Corelle dessert plates
    - (4) 18/10 Stainless Steel Flatware sets – fork, knife and teaspoon (Artaste 59380)
    - (5) 18/10 Stainless Steel soup spoons (Artaste 59366)
    - (6) Optional 18/10 Hostess Set
    - (7) Additional 18/10 Stainless Steel teaspoons
  - ii) The Board has approved use of Church funds to cover the difference in cost between what was raised and the final total.

## NEW BRACKETT CHURCH - WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

---

- b) There was a question about water/juice glasses (glass or reusable plastic) – would we also purchase those instead of using paper cups? Jeannie will research.
  - c) Sunday Services
    - i) Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, service will be led by members of the Book Group, using themes from the book, *The Gatherings: Reimagining Indigenous-Settler Relations*.
    - ii) The intention is that the last Sunday of each month be laity led.
  - d) Choir
    - i) New Hymnals – *not discussed during July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting*.
      - (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??
  - e) Eucharist Service
    - i) Joy to lead; *not discussed during July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting*.
  - f) Nurturer to be re-hired. Rev Will to confirm with Mica whether they are interested before putting a posting in Next Door; *not discussed during July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting*.
  - g) Welcoming Visitors – *not discussed during July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting*.
    - i) Karin offered to generate a tri-fold pamphlet or postcard to inform visitors about our church, including directing them to the website.
    - 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.
  - h) Orientation program for new members, as per NBC bylaws – *not discussed during July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting*.
- 6) New Business**
- a) UUA Chalice – it would be nice to acquire a chalice holder that is more typical of UUA chalices, something like...



## **NEW BRACKETT CHURCH - WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

---

- b) Passing of the Peace – this can be chaotic. Would it help to be at a different point in the service?
  - i) Rev Will would prefer to leave it where it is during the order of service.
  - ii) It was suggested that music or words from the pulpit be used to clearly indicate that the love fest is over and that it is time to *sit down*. 😊
- c) Joys and Concerns – it is often hard to hear when people share their joys and concerns.
  - i) One issue, pastor must paraphrase and repeat for the rest of the congregation.
  - ii) Option 1: Those who wish to share can go to front of sanctuary where a microphone is set up; this may include lighting a candle. Some thought this would be too anxiety provoking!
  - iii) Option 2: Get a wireless microphone that can be passed around. This seems like a better suggestion.
  - iv) It was also suggested that Rev Will use a microphone, not that he cannot project, but those who are hard of hearing just need a little extra assist.
  - v) Current sound equipment is not reliable and this must be researched. No specific action was taken.

### **7) Adjournment**

- a) Meeting ended at 1:30pm.

### **8) Next Meeting**

- a) Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 11:30am, in person.