

**Peace United Church of Christ
Coordinating Council Meeting
March 15, 2022 — 6:30 pm via Zoom**

Present: Moderator, Tom Hystead; Vice-Moderator, Joan Peterson; Secretary, Diane Swanoski, Spiritual Life Representative, Susan Larson Kidd, Education Representative, Penny Cragun; Stewardship Representative: Dave Courtright, Acting for Justice Representative, Monica Liddle; At Large members; Jessica Olson, Mary Adams, Bud Trnka, and Matt Ryan, Interim Minister, Rev. Jim Mitulski; Faith Formation Minister, Nathan Holst; Interim Pastoral Associate, Charlotte Frantz

Absent: Treasurer, Dick Goese

Guest: Rev. Tom Liddle

Call to Order at 6:39 p.m. by Tom Hystead

Opening Meditation: Tom Hystead shares the March 9th UCC Daily Devotion. ([Sign up for future devotion](#))

Agenda Additions and Approval - Rev. Tom Liddle is available for discussion regarding his Covenant Renewal. Jessica Olson makes a motion to discuss this covenant first on the agenda. The motion is seconded by Mary Adams. It is unanimous to accept the agenda as updated.

Approval of Consent Agenda (including financial reports, written committee representative reports, and Faith Formation Minister and Interim Pastoral Associate reports). It is moved by Jessica Olson, and seconded by Bud Trnka to approve the Consent Agenda as emailed. The motion is unanimously passed.

New Business:

Rev. Tom Liddle Covenant Renewal

- Rev. Tom Liddle gives an overview of the four-way covenant and process:
 - In the UCC, a pastor cannot be ordained without a church relationship in mission.
 - The four-way Covenant states that an ordained minister is representing Peace Church in a mission outside of the church setting.
 - The four-way Covenant is between Peace Church, the UCC Conference, the ordained minister, and their place of employment.
- Tom began a three-way Covenant with Peace Church in 1994 as a mission co-worker in East Timor.
- Peace members Sara Olson Dean and Jan Murphy also have current four-way Covenants with Essentia Health.
- The four-way Covenant suggests that the church make a financial donation to the institution at which ordained clergy are employed. There is not a specific dollar amount suggested - it is more symbolic support. In the past, the church has contributed to Essentia Health indirectly through support of some of their programming. Rev. Liddle asks us to consider, if the church were to make a financial contribution, what would we want it to go towards? For this year, we will earmark the \$1,000 contribution to Bob

Tavoni house (under Acting for Justice budget) to support the covenants of our three covenanted clergy working at Essentia Health. Going forward, the budget will indicate that these funds are being used as a financial contribution for these covenants.

- A motion to adopt the four-way Covenant for Rev. Tom Liddle is made by Susan Larson Kidd and seconded by Joan Peterson. The motion passes unanimously.

Reports of Standing Committees

Finance Committee: Financial Reports submitted by Rose Feriancek. Additional notes by Tom Hystead:

- Pledged income is running close to budget.
- Non-pledged is a bit down.
- The trend of having high income in January and February is not the case this year.
- There is a small net income loss, which will continue to be monitored.
- The Gabriel Fund has an approximately \$5,000 balance.
- The Finance Committee is looking to recruit more members.
- Monthly financial reports will be posted outside the office. It is being discussed whether to put them on our website.
- There is a question as to how budgeted money under Acting for Justice is distributed to outside sources. It appears that no money has come out for CHUM or other charities for January and February. Traditionally, amounts have been distributed 1/12 each month. Tom Hystead will check into this and reminds the Council that the budget was just approved at the February 20th Congregational meeting.

Human Resources Committee - Report submitted

- Employee Manual updates will be discussed in the Executive Session.

Nominating Committee –

- Transition Team - Mary Adams
 - A motion is made by Mary Adams, on behalf of the Transition Team, to appoint Kelly Grgas to the Transition Team. The motion is seconded and unanimously passed.
- Nomination Committee - Tom Hystead
 - Nominating Committee members were emailed the names of people who have previously served on the Council and current Council members whose terms are coming to an end. Dave Courtright is at the end of his second two-year term as Stewardship Representative. Matt Ryan is also at the end of his second two-year term as Member-at-Large. Joan Peterson will be moved to Moderator. Elected officers can serve up to two two-year terms. Dick Goese is at the end of his second two year term, but can serve up to four two-year terms. The list of names will be emailed to all Council members.
 - Council members are asked to send names of potential nominees to Pastor Jim, Tom Hystead, Joan Peterson, Mary Adams, or Jessica Olson.
 - We are reminded that current Council members can change their positions within the Council and extend their terms. Often At-Large members are recruited to fill other positions.

Written Committee Representative Reports

Christian Education: No written report submitted. Comments by Penny Cragun:

- Merging off Adult Education and Faith Formation seems to be working well.
- Adult Education is also meeting with Children's Ministry on a monthly basis.

Christian Spiritual Life: Written Report.

Acting for Justice Hub: Written Report.

Christian Stewardship: Written Report. Dave Courtright reports:

- There is a motion from the Property Committee: To authorize the property committee to solicit design work, seek grants or other community partnerships, and solicit bids for replacement of boilers and water heaters with high efficiency options with project costs to be paid from the designated building fund. The motion is seconded by Susan Larson Kidd. Jessic Olson asks to amend the motion to expand research to include other high efficiency heating options. The motion is amended and passes unanimously, understanding that we may need to consider additional funding if necessary. Jessica Olson and Tom Hystead offer to help Dave Courtright research options.
- Dave Courtright will also research new tent options to bring back to the Council. Susan Larson Kidd and Diane Swanoski offer to assist. There are some funds already budgeted for a new tent. It is agreed that a plea to the congregation for additional funding should be initiated to help pay for the tent. "Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes." Isaiah 54:2 NIV

Minister's Reports

Rev. Mitulski - Interim Minister. Rev. Jim shares:

- Pastor Jim has been with us for six months.
- The Congregational Meeting was well attended with good participation.
- We completed Black History Month in February.
- Lent has begun with Ash Wednesday. There are many ways to connect with people and explore personal spirituality during Lent and Easter. A number of Lenten Journey Devotional groups have been inaugurated. There will also be Wednesday evening prayer during Lent, in addition to the ongoing bible studies and online Connects groups.
- The online Connects groups are a great opportunity for Pastor Jim to meet and connect with people.
- Lent will coincide with Women's History Month in March.
- March 12th we had the largest attendance since Christmas.
- There is reinvigorated attendance and offerings for Adult Forums, including bringing in exciting inspirational speakers.
- There will be special CHUM offering requests during worship the first two Sundays in March.
- At the end of month there will be an opportunity for members to join NAACP.
- We are hoping to bring back "Wednesday Night Live" during June, July, and August, including food and bible study.
- Sunday worship service at 8:30 attendance is growing.
- A Taize service will be held on Sunday afternoons, the first Sunday of each month.
- Pastor Jim is considering one Sunday service in July and August at 9:00 a.m.
- The Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) is functioning well.
- The Transition Team is being formed and will gather soon to begin the work of helping the church clarify who we are and who we want to be going forward.

- A retreat for Council members and members of Council standing committees members is being planned.

Nathan Holst-Faith Formation Minister - Written Report.

Highlights by Nathan include:

- Focus group feedback sessions have produced ideas:
 - There will be a Children's Church on the first Sunday of the month.
 - Monthly parent sessions are being planned:
 - First Sunday of the month with Nathan.
 - Once a month over Zoom with the Children's Ministry Team.
 - Puppeting volunteers are going to participate once a month.
 - It is hoped to have the nursery restaffed by Easter.

Charlotte Frantz - Interim Pastoral Associate Minister. Written Report.

Charlotte shares:

- Afghan resettlement news -
 - Four young women refugees from Afghanistan have arrived in Duluth.
 - The support across the community has been phenomenal. They had 24-hour accompaniment for the first month while being housed at McCabe Renewal Center. Last Saturday they moved into an apartment, which was renovated by Peace members (headed by Jim McLean). The house is being furnished with items, most of which were donated..
 - The four women have been orientated to work in culinary jobs at Benedictine Health Center.
 - A day was spent at CSS to allow them access to the Fitness Center and open doors for educational opportunities, as well as at Lake Superior College.

Old Business

COVID Task Force Update - Tom Hystead

- The Task force meets tomorrow afternoon.

2022/2023 Council Recruitment - See under Nominating Committee.

SSC Update and Report to MN Conference - Tom Hystead

- The SCC Report and the Path Forward have been emailed to the Council.
- We are moving towards meeting many of the objectives.
- We are accountable to the UCC Conference and are due to give a report as to how we are doing. Tom Hystead, Diane Swanoski, and Mary Adams will work on creating a draft response to the UCC Conference and report back to the Council.
- It is suggested to revisit our interim objectives and check-in with Pastor Jim as to where we are and determine if they are still pertinent. The objectives will be reviewed at either the upcoming retreat, or in small groups with Pastor Jim. We also need to consider our pastoral needs. With our current structure, we have needed Pastor Jim, Pastor

Charlotte, and Pastor Nathan to accomplish what we have accomplished and what we hope to continue to accomplish on the interim objectives list.

New Business:

Rev. Tom Little Covenant Renewal (See notes at the beginning of the meeting).

Money Management Strategy(ies) - Tom Hystead

- It is suggested by the Finance Committee that the Council, along with the Finance Committee, listen to a presentation by the UCC fund. A date for the presentation is to be determined.

Future meeting Agenda Items - none

Adjourn - It is moved, seconded and unanimously agreed to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

A motion is made, seconded, and unanimously agreed to move to Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted: Diane Swanoski, Secretary

Next meetings: Congregational "Retreat," April 9 - McCabe Center
Coordinating Council Meeting, April 19, 2022
To be determined - Leadership Retreat