**COUNCIL MINUTES: Sunday, October 18, 2020, 12:30pm via Zoom**

Present: Vanessa Deutschmann, Dale Fixsen, Vicki Jenkins-Long, Ken Katzen, Ellen King, Kathy Marshall, Claire Matheny, and Anne Yenchko

Absent: None

Guests: Don Benson, Mary Brandenburg, Normale Doyle, Theresa Gale, and Bonnie Orrison

Taking Minutes: Kathy Marshall

**AGENDA**

Ellen noted an addition to the Agenda which had been emailed.

Vicki led us in prayer.

Ellen welcomed and thanked the guests for attending.

Ken provided the jest.

**Affirmations**:

Anne affirmed Ellen's sharing in this morning's worship service. Ellen affirmed Elaine Buderer's patience throughout the nine-month waiting time for the Labyrinth to be installed in the Sacred Garden. Ellen also affirmed the cooperation received Saturday morning from the Building and Grounds Leadership Team which allowed the sharing of the KC spaces for her knitting exchange project on the parking lot. Ken affirmed all the women who have walked beside Jada Williams, shepherding her from her days at Agape camp, to college, getting a job and a place to live, a driver's license, and a car. Vicki affirmed all the young people who have stepped up to work the polls in the coming election so the grandparents can safely remain home during these COVID-19 times.

**Minutes**:

**MOTION was made and approved to accept the Amended Council Minutes for September 20, 2020.**

**COVID-19**

**Tech Team/Re-Entry Team:**

Don B reported that, due to the vendor being closed a week for the Jewish High Holidays, our order was a bit delayed but will be shipping to us this week. Michael Cleveland is able to begin installation once the materials arrive and, looking forward to completion of the project, the first downstairs in-person worship will now be moved to Sunday, November 1, pending completion of the tech work. Theresa Gale will send KC an email outlining the expectations for worshippers who wish to attend.

Discussion of possibility of return of the repeat renters to the building. Such use will require not only the usual COVID-19 restrictions of the use of masks, hand-washing or hand-sanitizing, and social distancing, but also the cleaning and sanitization before leaving the space of any touched surfaces such as light switches, door knobs, audio equipment, toilet handles, sink faucet handles, etc.

Myrna Carpenter has suspended the Yoga classes until further notice. Kathy will contact Toastmasters, Maryland Professional Photographers, and the Columbia Mindfulness Group to discuss the possibilities and requirements, and report back on the answers.

Don also noted that because the tech construction will take some time, the installers will need to be very mindful of the events calendared for KC so as to avoid any conflicts.

Other discussion ensued as to the wisdom of opening KC’s doors again when the outcome would be so unknown. Council will continue to maintain the current month-by-month consideration of how much and when to open for more activity. Council agreed to be cautious for now, and to observe and evaluate the November 1 in-person worship event before making recommendations for any future in-house events.

**Leadership Teams**

**Building & Grounds Leadership Team:**

A recent Mini Barn Work Day allowed the BGLT to accomplish several items from the to-do list: Michael, Dale, and Matt labeled the electric box panels; the red curb out front was painted; and Dale patched the leaking shed roof. It was noted that the repair will hold for this winter, but the shed roof will need to be replaced next budget cycle.

**Community Life Leadership Team:**

There is no formal update available at this time, although Community Life programs abound.

**Finance Leadership Team:**

Dale presented and reviewed the current Summary. Two substantial payments will be made soon—the second quarter Outreach checks and the payment for the Labyrinth which is finally being installed this coming week. Finance continually reviews the budget projections for 2020 and is anticipating a positive outcome for this year, with perhaps a small loss. The 2021 budget is under preparation.

**MOTION was made and approved to change the** CRITERIA AND INSTRUCTIONS for the HCC scholarship to the following**:**

The purpose of this endowment shall be to provide scholarship funds to cover tuition, fees, books, supplies, and other expenses, which may include commuting costs and other costs of attendance, for students at Howard Community College based on the following:

• \_Students who are taking courses that will lead to employment or that support enhanced employment opportunities or skill-based capacity building;

• \_Low or moderate-income students preferred;

• \_Student may be employed or unemployed;

• \_The scholarship can be for noncredit or credit courses wherever the HCC staff determines that there is a need at the time; and

• \_Must be a Howard County resident.

**Human Resources Leadership Team:**

Anne noted that staff performance reviews will be held before the end of this year. Regarding the question of Amy’s ongoing employment status that arose last month, as it relates to tax consequences, it was decided after consultation among Amy, FLT,and HR, that no change of her status was needed.

**Spiritual Enrichment Leadership Team:**

Vanessa reviewed the highlights of her report (which unfortunately did not get emailed prior to this meeting,) and will email it to Council later today.

--Art Spilkia and Mary Brandenburg have another Spiritual film ready for the November showing.

--Mary continues to meet with her Thursday poetry and prose group

--Claire, Mary, and Theresa are discussing options for Advent

**Worship:**

Theresa noted her report was submitted, and referred to the information she provided in the Tech Team discussions at the beginning of this meeting.

**Enabling Minister:**

Claire submitted her monthly report, and called attention to the following items. It is planned to have a “soft launch” in-person gathering to be held on Sunday, October 25 at 4:00 pm in the Sacred Garden to consecrate the Labyrinth. Her performance review will be scheduled for early December with HRLT. She let Council know that she will spend Election Day, November 3, in deep prayer at the Dayspring Retreat Center. On November 7 she will attend the Linden-Linthicum United Methodist Church Charge Conference via Zoom, to affirm her good standing with the denomination through which she is credentialed. The Retreat Team is meeting regularly via Zoom to plan the virtual activities for this annual event.

**Discernment Discussion:**

Ellen polled the Council, and it was agreed to restrict this discussion to Council members only. Guests attending this meeting were thanked for their participation and dismissed. At the end of the deep and intense discussions,

**MOTION was made and approved to change the name of the building from Oliver’s Carriage House to a new name to be determined in the future.**

Ellen will prepare a letter to email to the KC community regarding this decision, and will include remarks appropriate to enable an understanding of this decision. It was noted that the December Council meeting includes members of both current Council and incoming 2021 Council to facilitate the transition.

**Nominating Committee:**

Anne Yenchko is chair this year, and is working on gathering her team to begin the process.

**Parking Lot:**

**Poetry and Prose Book Project:**  – to be addressed next month

**Evaluation of first in-person Worship held November 1**

Vicki led us in the closing prayer.

Next Month:

Facilitator – Ellen Chaplain – Kathy

Jest – Vicki Process Observer – Vanessa

Timekeeper – Anne Parking Lot – Ellen

Dates to Remember:

10-28-20 Retreat Team Zoom: What Does It Mean to Be a KC Member?

10-29-20 Outreach Zoom Meeting, 6:30 pm

11-1-20 First in-person downstairs Sunday Worship at 10:00 am, All Saints Day

11-3-20 Election Day, Pastor Claire in prayer at Day Spring Retreat Center

11-5-20 Retreat Team Zoom on KC's 5 Disciplines

Executive meeting – TBD if necessary

11-11-20 Spiritual Film Series, 7 pm

11-13-20 at noon, Retreat Zoom dinner

11-13-20 at 6 pm Retreat Zoom dinner

11-14-20 Saturday Retreat Zoom, 8:30 till 12 noon

11-15-20 Commitment Sunday, 10 am

11-22-20 Thanksgiving Sunday, 10 am

11-22-20 Next Council Meeting, at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ after Worship via Zoom

11-29-20 First Sunday of Advent

12-6-20 Annual KC Community Meeting, after Worship

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Marshall, Council Secretary