

BOARD MEETING AGENDA for October 17, 2017

"We are the trustees of the spirit of the North Chapel"

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| Ringling Bowl & Check-ins -- covenant review | 5:00-5:15 |
| Consent Agenda -- review/approve 9/19/17mtg. minutes | 5:15-5:20 |
| Treasurer's Report/Finances -- vote on budget report | 5:20-5:30 |
| Campaign for the North Chapel --update -- vote on upcoming expenditures | 5:30-5:40 |
| Leon's report -- questions & discussion | 5:40-5:55 |
| Canvass Task Force -- Update -- Canvass letter -- January 14 potluck after service | 5:55-6:05 |
| Life & Hope -- plans for transition and celebration | 6:05-6:15 |
| Retreat Follow-up -- study group for Resource Development -- SE outreach -- Social Justice -- "Funraising" | 6:15-6:55 |
| Committee Matters -- Committee Cafe 11/7 | 6:55-7:00 |
| Adjourn | 7:00 |

As a member of the North Chapel Board, I agree to:

- Be present to others and mindful of the needs of our community
- Speak my truth
- Listen with patience and an open mind and heart
- Stay focused on our vision and mission
- Articulate North Chapel values and champion initiatives that support them
- Do the work that is ours to do and share the load
- Commit to continuous learning and self-assessment
- Ask challenging questions
- Encourage creative tension, among ourselves and in our community
- Take care of myself and of others
- Maintain good will and give the benefit of the doubt
- Be proactive and responsive
- Bring joy and kindness to what we do

MUSIC AND WORSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 3, 2017, 5:15 PM, Submitted by: Jessica Stout

Attendees: Don Ransom, Shoshana Belisle, Anne Marinello, Jessica Stout, Diane Mellinger, Mary Blanton

Moment of Silence

Check-in

Review and Approval of Minutes from September meeting

Ongoing Business: (Action Points in Bold)

- 1) Discussed Board's request for a committee member to provide a two to three minute reflection during an upcoming service about "what the North Chapel means to you and why you support it financially."
Committee members will consider this request and follow up at the next meeting.
- 2) Worship Committee is in charge of coffee hour in December, and there are five total Sundays. Don indicated that he will be away the last three Sundays of December. **Committee members to sign up for contributions as December approaches.**
- 3) Discussed the placement of food shelf items at the pulpit, and the concern some have about this being inappropriate in a "sacred space". Discussed the alternative of the narthex as a better location, as people will be able to place food in the receptacle on the way into church.
Don will follow up with Wendy about making this change.
- 4) Reviewed services since 9/17. There was consensus that Phyllis had a very positive reception as a guest reflector. In addition, Leon continues to provide rich, compelling reflections while also working cohesively with service coordinators. Committee members support his attention to the ritual of chalice lighting with his accompanying words. One concern to monitor is the length of services, as they have been exceeding an hour (which has historically been seen as an ideal length to aim for). **Committee members will continue to assess how service length becomes drawn out and ways to mitigate this.**
- 5) Review action points from September meeting.
 - a) Shoshana has done a beautiful job writing descriptions of upcoming worship themes. **Shoshana will meet with Leon to**

discuss upcoming themes, as well as the use of themes in general after this calendar year.

- b) Committee discussion regarding the “gifts” embedded in each theme deferred to future meeting with Leon present.**
- 6) Review Future Services**
 - a) Decision regarding Leon’s Sunday off in December deferred to future meeting with Leon present.**
 - b) Discussed the issue of Christmas Eve being on a Sunday, and how the morning service might be modified in some way given the evening services that night. Discussion of this will continue.**

Closing Circle

Adjourn: 6:25 PM

Next Meeting: November 7th at 5:15

Buildings & Grounds Minutes- October 11, 2017

Present: Gina Auriema, Don Ransom, Ralph Lancaster, Jack Nelson, George Wohlgenuth & Vassie Sinopoulos

Sexton's Report

Radek reported that a new thermostat is needed for the second floor in the parsonage, and also a new kitchen faucet. Don replaced the broken storm window glass at the parsonage. All the church thermostats are in good order and the building is ready for winter. This Fall Radek will refinish the social hall floor, possibly on Sunday afternoon and he will ask CTWCs to help him.

Minutes of the September meeting were read and approved.

Old Business

The new wood stove for the parsonage was installed last week. We are looking to sell the old wood stove for \$479 and Gina will ask Geraldine to place an advertisement on the church bulletin and the Woodstock digest. The bill for the parsonage chimney repair came to \$3,200. New flooring in the SE room was installed and the sanctuary runner will get installed in the next couple weeks. Gina said the LaValley did a good job. We are not planning for any yard/garden clean up because most of it will be disrupted by the drainage excavation that will take place on October 23rd. However, Don will do a little weed whacking along the driveway.

New Business

Diane Mellinger requested that some kind of insulation, like homosote, is placed in the bathroom wall between the bathroom and the organ to absorb bathroom noises. George reported that the estimate from Jancewicz for the parsonage screened-in porch roof is \$7,000. George will ask for another estimate from Twin State Roofing, another option is to use cement roofing until we know what will happen to this part of the building during the future renovation.

Bad odor in the kitchen area was reported and Gina called Dimmick Septic Services, now Wind River Environmental, who came and cleaned the grease trap that apparently was causing the bad smell. The cost was \$400. This cleaning should be done yearly. Gina set up a yearly schedule for May/June cleaning.

A church member brought to our attention that the Minister's name on the outside sign should be first, then the hours, and then the child care. Don agreed to redo the sign.

With excavation starting on October 23, there will be some disruption for parking and walkway to the social hall from the parking area. In addition, that walkway is going to be hard packed, which will be a problem for the winter. We will have to use sand instead of salt and obviously sand will be coming into the social hall. We need to ask the CTWKs to vacuum after their weekly dinners.

George said that he will take care of the playground area, dig up weeds, and add a load of fresh wood chips.

Next meeting will be Tuesday November 14 at 5:30 in the Library? and at 6:30 there will be Committee Cafe.

Submitted by
Vassie Sinopoulos

12 October 2017

Board Report: Facilities Renovation Task Force

There's lots to report this month, as we're actively making progress toward some of our renovation projects.

1. Tom Havill is going to start work on the excavation in the driveway and rear of the church on 23 October. He may finish up his work by Friday, the 27th, but we should plan on not being able to use the driveway or parking lot from 23 October through the first week in November. We'll probably be able to open it for use again by 3 November. When Tom has finished, he'll grade everything, reseed the lawn where necessary, and put down hardpack on the sidewalk into the building. The sidewalk will be blacktopped in late spring 2018, as soon as it's warm enough to complete the project, and we'll replant the gardens and finish landscaping then.

2. Robert Black completed construction drawings that we can use to obtain estimates for the work on the SE Rooms and Chapel; Gina is now contacting contractors for bids. She has applied for a construction permit with the Fire Marshall; it will cost us \$400.

3. We have an updated proposal for work on the roof from Jancewicz & Son. In order for them to schedule our work in the spring, we'll need to sign a contract and send them a 33% deposit for the work (\$12,735) by the end of the month. **Note:** we've applied for a Vermont Historic Preservation Grant to support this work; we won't know whether our proposal for that grant has been approved or not until December. But we need to move ahead with the roof repair whether or not the grant is approved.

4. We're reviewing proposals from insulation contractors.

5. Gina filled out an application with the Town of Woodstock for a building permit for the stoop or porch that will go outside the door to the Chapel. (There is no charge for this permit, because we're a nonprofit.) This will go before the design review at their November 1st meeting and 15 days later we should receive the written permit to begin work.

Minutes

Welcoming & Engagement Committee October 5, 2017 5:00 - 6:00 pm

CHECKIN AND SHORT SILENT MEDITATION

Present: Barbara, Joby, Moira, Pru, Laurie, Polly and Leon.

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of the Welcoming and Engagement Committee is to develop an ongoing welcoming and engagement process rooted in kindness, inclusivity and relationship building, directed toward the creation and support of a loving community.

MEETING FOCUS:

To briefly update ongoing initiatives and coordinate activities with SE and Membership.

To devote the majority of the meeting for discussion with Leon to lay the groundwork for how we might support him and thoughts about the future focus of the committee.

CURRENT INITIATIVES FROM LAST MEETING: Continue with ongoing tasks.....

Welcomer schedule Polly **Polly will ask Sherry about posting a schedule beside the kitchen for those willing to sign up for outside welcomer.**

Potlucks dates and organization Pru and Joby **October 29 is the first.**

Monthly column interviewing new members and about what WEC is doing and engagement opportunities - Moira **By Thursday 13th**

to write

up about the RE's pancake breakfast to be held the 15th @ 9:00 before church. Ask Geraldine if she needs help? In other ways? Get someone else to help?

NEW INITIATIVES

Supporting SE activities (Bake sale follow-up - Pancake Breakfast Oct. 15)

Request from Membership committee Sherry asks if WEC would interview new members to find what their interests and hopes might be. It was decided to wait until a membership process was developed and then if would probably be incorporated.

Suggestions were made for raising awareness of membership process throughout the year.

Mentoring Program: Continue discussion at November meeting (Judy Williamson said she would be happy to be a mentor).

MAJOR MEETING FOCUS

Questions for and discussions with Leon

*From your experiences with other churches what thoughts, ideas and suggestions might you have for our committee?

Leon joins the discussion And asks, "what can we do to make people want to come? How/ Make a culture that is welcoming in nature. "Radical hospitality"? Pathway to membership...one step at a time. Option to meet in small groups? Talk about what the NC means to us. Ask "What do you need"? Can meet after church at coffee hour or in small groups upstairs. Service coordinator be

point man?

Leon posits to us: If you were going to plant a garden, what would you do? It is a metaphor for How to Attract New Members.

*What are your broad plans for North Chapel and how might we be helpful and supportive?

Closing reading

Next meeting: Thursday, November 2 at 5:00 pm Joby will provide the next reading.

Respectfully submitted, Polly Forcier

Spiritual Exploration for Children and Families

Sunday Program!

NC-CTWK = a North Chapel Change The World Kid. Currently Aidan and Forrest.
SE Kid = a North Chapel child in grades K-6

October 8

Children: 4

SE Kids created decorations for our SE Pancake Breakfast happening on Oct. 15th.
NC - CTWK (2): Played soccer at TPVS with student from Costa Rica.

October 1

Children: 6 plus Lucien and 2 NC-CTWK

SE Kids along with NC-CTWK (2) we helped the CTWK harvest the Food Justice Garden that our CTWK Rising help plant in the spring!

September 24 BAKE SALE

Children: 12 SE Children and 1 NC-CTWK

CHILD-LED Bake Sale Set up and Prep with Geraldine and Ben - we raised over \$300 and had an incredible time.

September 17

Children: 4 SE Children and 2 NC-CTWK in service for Phyllis reflection

Enjoyed time outside, discussing the CHaD Hero's Run4Ryland race and discussed how we could raise the money that is needed to participate - children decided on bake sale and pancake breakfast

September 10

Children: 7 SE Children and 1 NC-CTWK helping

Start of the new SE year. We had a Welcome Back Bash on the lawn outside with snacks and card tricks from Aidan. We explored the river.

Upcoming Schedule:

October 22: CHaD Hero: Run4Ryland

October 29: Expressive Arts and Drumming with Ben and Murray at North Chapel

November 5: CTWK and Geraldine begin work on Christmas Hearts Project

November 12: Music as a Spiritual Practice with Michael Z

November 19: Spiritual Exploration with Jess and Geraldine

Weekly Children's Yoga

On Wednesday September 20th we started a weekly "Story and Yoga Time with Angel" at the NWPL fro 10:30am-11:30am.

Attendance as follows:

September 20th: One Adult - 3 children

September 27th: Three Adults, 6 children

October 4th: Three adults, 6 children

October 11th: One adult, 3 children

Our Whole Lives Grades 4-6

Parent orientation took place on Sunday September 24th. North Chapel has 3 children attending. At least 2 other children are participating that do not have a home church but found out about OWL through the posting I made on the community listserves. Sparrow (DRE of Norwich) asked me to co-lead the OWL session with her which turns out to be a wonderful learning experience.

OWL started on October 1st and runs through the second week in December. I pick up the children from Jess's house and transport them to the class and then bring them back home again. This helps the parents from having to make the trip and saves our environment from many cars driving.

There are over 15 children signed up for the OWL class between the Norwich UU, the NC UU, Norwich Congo Church and some children not associated with a church.

Fun fact - a family with three children who now go to the Norwich UU church and are attending OWL with me - I taught them children's yoga when they were just 3 years old. So fun to connect with them again.

After School Program at the NWPL

A group of people met with the NWPL Executive Director Amanda Merc on October 2nd. Rev. Leon and I attended along with others who work with children in our community. The conversation continues on how best to meet the needs of our children in the community in an authentic way.

Book Group (For the parents/caregivers)

It is important to give parents and caregivers time to establish connections and to make time for themselves. Creating a healthy ritual of reading for pleasure and time to connect with like-minded people. This is a very enjoyable time where folks get together, enjoy some wine and snacks and good conversation.

This month we read "The Book of Joy" by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Mpilo Tutu and Douglas Abrams. We met on Thursday October 5th at 6:00pm to discuss. 3 people in attendance but cut short for 2 to attend the Las Vegas Vigil.

We are now reading "When Breath Becomes Air" by Paul Kalanithi. We will meet on Thursday November 2nd at 6:00pm to discuss.

Welcome Leon Potluck

The Maliks hosted a Welcome Rev. Leon Potluck on Wednesday September 20th. We had 9 families in attendance plus Leon. I didn't do a headcount at the party but according to the invitation we had roughly 31 people in attendance.

CHaD Hero's: Run4Ryland

It has been a lot of fun working with the children and families to register for this event. In order to ensure that as many families attend as possible, we decided to fundraise to make up the registration fees and the fundraising minimums. The last few years we have loosely encouraged families to attend, but we have heard "complaints" about the cost and also if our SE program is encouraging attendance then possibly we can do more to raise the funds to help cover the costs - which is understandable since it is expensive and some people have a very hard time directly asking for help with fundraising but are more than willing to help put together breakfast or bake for a bake sale.

It feels important to try to get as many families involved as it is for a good cause, the day is also filled with lots of good energy and will help the children piece together the work they have done to raise the money and then helping to tie that in with the event. I hope to do a follow up visit to the CHaD for the children if allowed. It also is important to create awareness about the Run4Ryland Team in particular.

To date we have 9 Families attending for a total of 25 people (10 adults and 15 children).

Walking Group

Our Walking Group continues to meet on Thursdays at 8:30am. This is a wonderful time for parents/caregivers to get together, walk , hike and talk. Childcare is available and is used every week. When it gets too cold, we will start doing yoga with Phoebe again.

Vermont Family Based Approach

The North Chapel (SE for children and families) continues to belong to the VFBA Coalition. No current update at this time.

North Chapel Social Justice Transition: Beyond Our 10 Years with LHA

Communicating the Change to the Community

- Since many people already know that we will wind up our 10-year commitment to Life and Hope, it's important that this be officially communicated to the wider church community as soon as possible.
- Regarding timing, because we have customarily committed our Thanksgiving offering to the kids of North Chapel House, it seems late for us to make a change in that tradition this year.
- My proposal would be to make this the time to tell the community that this year's Thanksgiving's offering will represent the conclusion of our 10-year commitment. This gives people a chance to make a final contribution if they wish.
- We might even decide to devote the funds raised this Thanksgiving to provide a "farewell gift" to Children's Development Village - perhaps a new generator or a new stove for the kitchen. (These are hypothetical suggestions - I'd have to check on specific needs.)

Recognizing and Celebrating Life and Hope

- Because this has been such a significant and long-term commitment for North Chapel, I think we all agree that it's important to recognize and celebrate what this little church community has achieved.
- Barbara and I would be happy to pursue Leon's proposal that we put together a book that records our 10-year commitment to our six kids.
- I can approach Annie who I'm sure would be happy to show the Children's Development Village videos at an appropriate year-end event.

Identifying Possible New Social Justice Initiatives

- While North Chapel has an amazing history of supporting social justice initiatives, the process of identifying new candidates has not always been easy. But there are some patterns from the past that might be instructive.
- Most of our initiatives have been instigated and driven by one or two "champions." The most recent example is Anne Dean and the permaculture garden.
- Some have been triggered or inspired by church leadership. Recall Daniel's challenge to the community on environmental issues that led to a small group taking action that eventually grew to become Sustainable Woodstock. Or his invitation to Venerable Somnieng to lead a meditation that resulted in our sponsorship of Life and Hope.
- What has not worked so well has been when we have tried to have a committee decide such issues. Several iterations of a Social Justice Committee bogged down in abstract principles and long lists of multiple interests, but little concrete action.

- One option going forward might be for the board and/or Leon to initiate a process that is focused and action oriented. The key will be to identify the social entrepreneur(s) willing to drive the agenda.