

**United Church of Christ Congregational  
Executive Board Meeting  
July 7, 2024**

Prior to the Executive Board meeting, the Board had a very productive conversation with two members of *Silver Valley Pride*. They shared information about their organization and their work in the Valley and we shared our journey as an Open & Affirming congregation in the UCC as well as details about the events of the past few months. We expressed support for their efforts and we all pledged to stay in touch about how we might work together,

Benjamin Crosby, serving as temporary Convener, called the meeting to order. Katie Bauer, Gail Carlson, Ben Crosby, Geoff O'Meara and Christi Thielman were present along with Alice Ling, our "Interim" Pastor.

Alice opened the meeting with prayer.

Ben declared that there was a quorum and the agenda was approved as presented.

It was acknowledged that the Minutes for the June 9, 2024 Executive Board meeting were approved via email on June 14.

There was lengthy check-in with most folks expressing both concern for our situation and positive feelings about how we are handling things. One member expressed considerable anger about the handling of some recent issues. Several basic statements came out of the discussion:

1. As an Open & Affirming congregation all are welcome and we are all encouraged to promote attendance and participation in the life of our church.
2. Executive Board and congregational meetings are church [not public] meetings. All members and active friends are welcome to attend and may be granted voice at the discretion of the Moderator and/or the Board.
3. The Executive Board agenda belongs to the Board and the full Board is to be consulted in its formation.
4. The Board shall conduct its business by consensus whenever possible. When necessary, formal votes may be conducted at the Moderator's or Board's discretion.

Ben clearly stated that if the Board would like a different style of leadership, he would be glad to step back from the Convener's role.

Alice offered an update regarding supply pastor arrangements and got affirmation about the bridge work she is doing as well as positive feedback about the balance of supply preachers. We agreed that communion will be celebrated August 11 and September 8.

Ben offered comments about our financial situation in the absence of a Financial Statement. It was agreed that he would prepare a 2-month statement for our August Board meeting. Christi announced she would no longer be handling offerings so Gail offered to do so for July 14 and July 21.

Approved 08-04-2024

There was consensus to suspend the streaming of Executive Board meetings while Geoff is in Wallace. They will resume when he returns to Florida.

Ben agreed to develop a proposal for live streaming worship services to be considered at the August meeting.

There was consensus that the Board will not normally conduct any business by way of email (or text?).

Recent difficulties with our new digital front door lock were discussed. Ben indicated that he has reset it and that it appears to be functioning better. Everyone agreed that our primary code is not to be given out and that temporary codes will be issued to folks renting the building.

There was acknowledgment the Board needs to continue exploring ways to use music effectively in worship.

Geoff agreed to pursue details for a possible contract for lawn care and snow removal so we can consider it at the August meeting.

Katie signed the authorization letter as Clerk for Wells Fargo Bank so we can access the Corinthians funds held there.

It was confirmed that both the Bridal Room project and the sanctuary drapes project are complete.

After discussion, there was consensus that a small memorial plaque could be installed outside the Bridal Room.

The Board agreed that the hourly chimes should be reinstated in the building. Ben agreed to take responsibility to do the work.

There was discussion about the assignment/role of liaisons for building rentals. While there was no general resolution, Ben agreed to be liaison for the October wedding.

Christi announced she would no longer be handling music in worship so Geoff agreed to handle it for July 14 and July 21.

Christi announced she would no longer be handling the church telephone so Geoff agreed to handle it until July 21.

The Board set August 4 at 12:30 pm and September 15 after worship for the next Executive Board meetings.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ben Crosby

Approved 08-04-2024