

Church Board Notes 5/16/21  
Cora, Jan, Patsy, John D., Louise

### **Treasurer report**

Income for April was well below expenses, but for the year, we're about \$10,000 ahead of expenses. We've used about 81% of expenses this year, and income is about 87% of budget for 2020-21. Patsy was concerned last year about the lack of income from space rentals, but the Eritrean Church and the online auction were very helpful, as well as the work of volunteers in maintaining the building even when we're not using it. If we don't use the Osgood fund this year (and it appears we may not), we may be able to use it as a down payment for elevator repairs. Money from the auction, for the Sabbatical, is in a special account. John reminds us that constitutionally, the Osgood Fund can be used to help with maintenance projects.

### **GAG (Gratitude and Generosity) report**

We have a list of those who have or have not pledged. Non-pledgers will be contacted in the next week or two. We should have all in by June 8.

### **Evaluation updates for Karen and Meighan**

Karen has turned her self-evaluation in. As soon as we have both Karen's and Meighan's, Karen will post them for congregation's evaluations.

### **Recruiting for Church Officers**

CB: Cora, Patsy, Louise, Dave K, Sam R

Trustees: Dave K, Roy H, Terri D, Suzanne F, Jerry S, John D

WR Board: Jack F and Suzanne F co-chairs, Robin R, Pat S, Cora T, Carolyn U

### **Review of Building Listening Meeting: next steps?**

Cora's takeaways: We do want to keep the building, elevator repair is most important, we need a group to discuss the fate of the organ.

CB members commented on the results of the meeting: mostly we were in agreement with Cora's takeaways. John says we need to continue discussions of "what is our ministry, in the context of the building?" But again, we need an elevator for anything we plan. John is waiting for a bid on preliminary work.

See "**Contributions to Prospect Members' Listening Meeting, May 11, 2021**" below.

### **Trustees Report**

We now have a month-to-month contract with the Eritrean church. We also have a formal apology for the Easter Eve excess of sound, to the neighborhood. This remains to be sent out. Cora will send that text to Karen to send to the neighborhood.

Roy and Jerry are working on all tech updates that are needed to do live/hybrid services.

## **Report of PNW annual conference**

The main accomplishment of the conference was to revise the PNW-UCC 2021-22 budget to include an additional \$50,000 (to be drawn from reserves) to address as-yet-unspecified work to make the Conference an anti-racist organization. This new funding was in addition to the previously allocated \$2000 for diversity training. This brought the budget—a “moral document,” as we were reminded, in line with the Conference’s newly stated intention (which also happened at this meeting) to become actively anti-racist.

Cora also commended Hillary Coleman, who moderated Zoom meetings with over 170 attendees, and handled the transformation of the agenda into a passionate discussion with grace and great professionalism. Thanks also to those voices who pushed the Conference toward becoming its best self.

## **Contributions to Prospect Members’ Listening Meeting, May 11, 2021**

Present: Cora Trujillo as moderator, Meighan Pritchard, Jan Kinney, Dave Kidder, Louise Morehead, Ralph and Sue Cobb, John Shrader, Frank Trujillo, Jim Miller, Consi Javier, Pat Severson, Kathy Mahan, John Daugherty, Roland Holloway, Mary Liz Chaffee, Pam Puglisi, Tom Bell, Suzanne Fry, Judy Hooper.

Goal is just to listen. There will be no votes, no decisions.

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Cora describes some of the issues: the outside of the building needs repointing, repairs, and painting. The elevator needs about \$30,000 worth of work, and the organ will need @ \$100,000. How do we use the building, going forward? Do we keep the building? Do we sell it?

Opened with prayer.

CJ: I joined because I love everything about the church. The history, the music, the building. I feel safe alone in the building. I know it costs to bring things to standard, and we’re an intimate gathering, smaller than we used to be. That’s what I love about it. I appreciate that we can gather to talk about these things. I want to maintain it and improve it.

FT: The organ: I work directly with Carl Dodrill, who maintains the organ. When we remodeled the chancel, we thought about getting rid of the organ, but Carl saw that it was top of the line when installed in 1934. It’s an amazing instrument, a work of art, never moved from its original setting. Carl and I have been doing minor, ongoing fixes to keep it functioning. It will be 100 in 2034. If we invest in another century of life, it will need major repairs in Carl’s workshop, for around \$100,000. It can continue to function as-is, though. Replacing it with something else would cost about the same, and would not produce the sound.

M-LC: I was thinking, what kind of time can we buy? But now I see that any substitute would be expensive. Make it as functional as possible. What if we found some help (a grant) from an organ preservation society somewhere?

TB: What’s the new technology Frank mentioned? There are “pipe-organ purists” vs. electronic organs. But electronic organs are also fine. The wiring is the major problem.

JK: Could we interest the Organ Guild in doing concerts on this unique instrument?

SF: \$100,000 buys us another century. Can we do less for less money and get another 25 years?

FT: The work that needs doing for any improvement is extensive. Much of the work may be a labor of love, but new parts will need to be bought or made. We could meet with Carl to hear what needs doing/

SF: When we did the pipe-cleaning project, there was a lot of excitement about having a refurb organ. It would be great to find someone who would want to do concerts.

MP: The elevator is also needing work, and the window lintels. If the roof is decent, can we do a community solar panel up there. Safe Action Climate Team wants to get folks off fossil fuel, and we have an oil furnace and gas stoves. We've just done a rehab of the air filtration and circulation. It would be good to have a more energy-efficient building.

RC: I thought there would be a presentation by the Trustees. What's going on with the furnace?

CT: I thought of a presentation, then decided no. But any of the trustees can answer questions here.

JD: Don't know any specifics. We have several furnaces, and they have a lifespan. We need to prepare for their eventual failure.

DK: We've been on top of routine maintenance and minor repairs and replacements. New thermostats in the building to save energy. HVAC has been improved in the face of COVID.

RC: No real expense expected around the furnaces?

JD: Not in the near future, no.

JD: Back to the organ: one issue is preserving something 100 years old. Or not. Other issue is what would replacing it with something else would cost. Acoustics or electronics? Could we bring in an electronic instrument to hear what it sounds like? Cost would be much lower, but sound would be different. Would that be OK or not? One step at a time?

KM: A while back we started talking about using Puccini as a concert hall, because of beautiful acoustics. Consider the organ as part of that, to help generate income. We could improve the building for receptions, etc., also.

How does improvements tie into a mission? Tear up the bus parking concrete and make a community garden.

JS: We're not up to earthquake code. Is it ethical to invite people into a building that could kill them?

DK: Keep or get rid of the building? Concerts, theater, community forums, fellowship...are some ways the bldg supports our mission. Real-estate is for buyers right now. Hard to find a replacement location. We're not that old, compared to other churches in Seattle. I'd like to think about how to modernize (solar panels, etc.). Ask Carl about what's practical way to update the organ.

LM: We have a special organ. And special, beautiful, multi-purpose sanctuary. It's a way to show that at Puccini we're doing a good thing. Music, art, thinking about contemporary problems, helping people find a moral compass (lacking in America right now). The organ can be a magnet for musicians to play, teach, give concerts.

PP: The building is a tremendous asset. We can work through some of the difficulties. Lots of people would be very interested in the assets of the bldg. Let's reach out to them.

DK: Someone at lunch asked when we're coming back to the building.

JK: The elevator is first priority, especially as we age. We can't even do concerts (fundraisers) until we have a functioning, reliable elevator.

TB: There are other organs that might attract musicians more than ours, even refurbished. Kimballs are limited somewhat in sounds. Good for accompaniment, but not so much for solo work.

DK: Elevator is likely the most important thing on the repair/replace list. \$30,000 is not so much for an elevator. They are expensive, but Trustees have been good at ongoing maintenance. 3<sup>rd</sup> floor renovation cost about the same, and we were able to raise that.

PP: Are we thinking of replacing the elevator? Agree about its importance, especially as we open the building to the public.

JD: We bought somewhat of a lemon. Not designed to be durable—planned obsolescence. We're talking about replacing all the electronics and switches to make it more reliable.

PP: We're talking about a lot of money, then.

JD: We don't have a bid yet. I'm trying to get one.

JH: How would neighbors react to the improvements, and/or what do they think about what kind of neighbor we've been? How would they feel about its sale, or whatever? How would they support what we have? When would we talk to them?

SF: Side yard. 10 years ago we had a plan for a multipurpose design (including PEP), but now we could do a new design just for the church's use. Good place for a wedding and other events, or just a nice outdoor space.

MP: Not arguing, just putting things out. Will we keep using the organ? What direction is church music headed in the future? Is organ music the music of the future? Also, Carl values the organ as a unique antique, but how do we value it? Would we do the work just to please Carl?

Neighbors could be involved. Want to help with fundraising? UCC Walla Walla put solar panels on, and spread a wide net for funds. We could have people sponsor a key on the organ...

Side yard. The plans are still around somewhere, for a jumping off place for a new plan.

RC: Why don't young couples stay at our church? Rather than having a preschool, we could concentrate on our Sunday school to start growing the congregation (and the funds) again.

LM: Where does the water go when it falls on the concrete? If we take away the concrete, where will the water go? We might affect the foundations of neighboring bldgs.

DK: Responding to Ralph. The work we are doing on organ, elevator, etc., is part of ongoing ministry, but we need to look at our future ministry and how it relates to young people and others.

M-LC: We've talked only about the building. I hope forward thinking is also about engaging with the community. We relied on PEP as a mission or community contribution. In addition to physical plant issues, we need to concentrate on serving and

connecting with the community. We may find other organizations<sup>[JK1]</sup> that want our space, but we need to reach out in other ways, e.g., Africatown.

TB: In response to Meighan: It's hard to project 100 years out, or even 50 years. What will the neighborhood be like, what will people's spirituality look like? Spending \$100,000 isn't really for the next 100 years—more like 40 or 50 as a manageable way to project ideas and speculations.

KM: What draws people into a church is an activity. E.g., people joined the antiracism book group, and then joined the church. The way to bring in people is to be doing things that draw them in.

DK: Outreach is how we make the church work, via activities.

JD: We need to do certain things to make the building more accessible no matter what activities we offer: the exterior, the elevator, the window wells, to build a strong and secure bldg.

MP: I appreciate all the comments. Good listening session. Church bldg can sometimes be the tail that wags the dog. We needed to check in to be sure the bldg is actually serving the ministries we want—PEP, music, discussion forums, etc.