Committee of Chairs Meeting, Jan. 21, 2025 – Notes – FINAL

Rev. Joan

Elaine Ball, Congregational Life Coordinator and Membership Committee

Brenda Bean, Board, Finance Committee, Silent Auction

Sandal Cate, Women’s Alliance

Carl Etnier, Production Team

Steve Finner, Denominational Affairs

Paula Gills, Caring Network

Steve Gold, Board and Climate Resilience Study Group

Judith Hinds, Adult Spiritual Exploration Team

Susan Koch, Spiritual Exploration Committee

Paul Ohlson, Climate Resilience Study Group

Ansel Ploog, Board and Stewardship Committee

Janet Poeton, Community Lunch Committee

Donia Prince, Music Director

Anne Sarcka, Climate Action Team

Peter Thoms, Church Historian, Property Committee, Planned Giving Team

Steve F. lit a chalice and offered an opening reading.

Each person present checked in with a comment on their group’s status at this halfway point in the church year.

FY2026 budget development process is underway. Chairs/leaders should submit any requests for a change in their budget amount to Scott Hess and/or Paul Curtin on the Finance Committee. The FC plans to submit the preliminary budget to the Board on Feb. 2nd. Pledge campaign will run from 2/23 to 3/16. The theme is “Strong is what we make each other.” More callers are needed. The campaign team has studied past pledging trends. Examples: Only 27 pledging units provide HALF of pledges. This is not a sustainable pattern. The most common pledge is $1200/year.

The Silent Auction will run online Feb. 1-9. It will be advertised on Front Porch Forum in addition to usual UCM methods. UCM now has a PayPal account, so bidders will be able to use PayPal to pay for their items.

The Climate Resilience Study Group was appointed by the Board to research 5 options for improving UCM’s future survival strategies. Co-chairs are Steve Gold and Paul Ohlson. 13 members total. Findings to be presented to Board by 12/31/25. Board is working on ways for congregation to decide on the path forward. A central goal is to avoid divisiveness.

ET and staff are debating what to do about UCM’s social media, specifically Facebook, in light of Meta’s recent objectionable policy changes. What other platform would we use? Blue Sky? Tribal? Joan and Board will discuss soon.

Donna Russo-Savage (ET) has been updating the “Committee Structure and Guidelines” document. Chairs have been asked for input regarding their groups. A draft will be ready for ET and possibly CoC comment soon. Board, ET, all of us are concerned about open leadership positions and the difficulty of providing meaningful leadership training/development.

What is the role of the CoC?

* Networking among all groups
* 3-way communication (up, down and out)
* “A responsive, creative sounding board for the ET, Board, and each other”
* Could be more leadership development – what do chairs need?
* What do Board and ET need from us?

Maybe we could generate more enthusiasm with a retreat or a social gathering in August?

Next CoC meeting: Wednesday, April 2nd, 6-8 pm. Susan offered to co-facilitate with someone. Judith will do it again if no one else steps up. Steve F. can handle tech aspects again.

Joan offered a closing reading.