

(The August minutes were approved at the September 12, 2024 Church Council meeting.)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Church Council Minutes

August 7, 2024, 6:30pm

Call to Order – (Jodi) Called by Jodi Cowen, Moderator, @ 6:30 pm.
Jodi Cowen, Tracy Greymont, Phil Stepanski, Shandy Roehrig, Louise Mollinger, Jeanne Mantsch, Matt Riemer, Jennifer Dimmer, and Rhonda Thompson.

Opening Meditation – Tracy read A Steadfast Spirit, a daily devotional, by Martha Spong.

Approval of the Council Minutes – July 2024 (Rhonda) - Jennifer motions to approve the July minutes and Louise seconds the motion. The minutes are approved.

Treasurer financial Updates (Phil) -

- Financial Statements-Financial Statements-Gross Profit total of \$125,734.68 (2024 Budget is \$115,151.56), Total Expenditures come to \$123,061.17 (2024 Budget is \$124,263.97). The checking account has a balance of \$21,375.50; the Mission account has a balance of \$200; the Cornerstone account balance is \$25,876.05; the savings account balance is \$34,706.22 and the Scrip checking account balance is \$2,654.50. Phil found a document from the Southeast Association stating 2024 dues owed are \$1908 and thinks this needs to be adjusted. Phil will look into how much money has been collected for the windows. July 2024 was the last month for the EFT deposit transaction collections for Making All Things New.
- Mid-year contribution statements- Statements can be generated any time by running a report. This set of statements will be emailed. This will be a trial run with the new church data program, REALM.
- Loan- Phil and Kris are working on the closing numbers from the year 2023 to finish the loan application. (Mission payments from 2023 were just paid (deferred due to lower account balances earlier in the year).
- Budget - Phil has started a 2025 budget. He will send each committee the previous years' budget amounts for them to consider and propose a 2025 budget expenses. Then as a Council we'll make projections for income, staff wages and minister salary.

Old Business

Insurance Claim update - The insurance company has sent an email letting us know that they are reopening the claim for the 2023 power surge/storm to include the elevator. A spreadsheet should be used to track bills, payments to what companies and what was submitted to the insurance company.

Prime Horizon update (Jodi) - We are added to their liability insurance. They will start with the short term rental trial of the space this week.

Jennifer and Jodi will help with additional cleaning that may be needed. Keys have been given to Gene with Prime Horizon.

Transition Plans - 10 min.

- Interim updates - The last candidate has already accepted another call. Jodi has already contacted Jane to see if there are additional candidates. Would anyone on the Council like to work on a seminary job posting that we could use to post with area seminary schools. We do have examples and our last church profile to help. Tracy will work on the first draft. Tracy is emailing the pulpit supply pastors again to continue filling in Sundays for the fall.

Community Outreach - questions about missions (please see pre-read) -

Additional Team Updates if needed (please see pre-reads)- Jodi and Matt will pick a date in August to meet to get Stewardship started.

Have all the funds for the stained glass windows been secured? Phil believes all the funds have been received. The majority of the money in the savings account is allocated for set spending like stained glass window repair.

New Business

Program year planning - Tracy shared last year's planning for liturgy. This will be discussed at this week's staff meeting. A template was used listing the liturgical program year, scriptures, church seasons, holidays to help map out the moving parts for music and choirs. Tracy will take the lead if it's not an office staff responsibility. Jennifer will help.

- One Service for Program Year-It is decided to continue with 9am services for September and October. Clarify with the Building Team as to who is opening and closing after Sunday services. Worship Tracy motions to continue with one service at 9am for September and October. Then work with Brett and set which Sundays will be live streamed as services will continue in Fellowship. Jeanne seconds the motion. The motion passes and the vote is approved. It's suggested to provide Nursery care on limited Sundays and not all. Let's ask Amy to add nursery care to the job board. Hopefully we can use sign up genius again to open it up additional Sundays. It can be announced any additional days we have coverage for the Nursery. Tracy will add Nursery care into the program year planning.
- Confirmation ideas- It looks like there are six possible students. A copy of Jeff's program has been located that could be used as a guide. Otherwise there is a \$75 online course through the Wisconsin Conference, but it's for individuals and not a class program. Shandy says if they run it similar to Church School they

can have the monthly meetings as well as the set field trips. They need a teacher or special speakers for classes and parents would help with field trips. Shandy will reach out to any of the students that don't sign up and work out a class schedule for those that do sign up.

Search Committee formation - As the list of interested members comes together, a lead/chair and secretary need to be chosen. The conference will give the chair the Search and Call workbook. On August 20 a small team of Council members will meet to review the list of names for a possible leader or to do additional reach outs.

Technology needs - An exploration of the technological needs and a general evaluation of what's on hand and what is needed is long overdue. Council is asking staff to help work on needs.

Any other new business to come before the Council? Pastoral Care and visits for homebound should be revisited. Other pastoral care and member's needs like who needs a ride to church should be considered to figure out the next round of visits.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment 8:28 pm
Submitted by, Rhonda Thompson - Clerk