

(The February minutes were approved at the Church Council meeting on March 11.)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Church Council Minutes

February 13, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

Call to Order – (Jodi)- Called by Jodi Cowen, Moderator, @ 6:34 p.m.

Jodi Cowen, Tracy Greymont, Phil Stepanski, Bill Bond, Jennifer Dimmer, Matt Riemer, Nancy Hinneberg, Amy Gilhooly (staff), Rhonda Thompson, Jeanne Mantsch (on Zoom) and Shandy Roehrig (on Zoom).

Opening Meditation – (Jennifer) - Jennifer read *Light, I Am*, a devotional by Matt Laney.

Approval of the Council Minutes – January 2025 (Rhonda) - Bill motions to approve the January minutes and Jennifer seconds the motion. The minutes are approved.

Treasurer Financial Updates (Phil) -

Financial Statements - There was some confusion with the mission payments. We made the payment for 2024 late and will make a timely 2025 payment in 2025. The insurance covered all but \$43 of the organ repair invoice. Phil moved \$50,000 from the checking account to the Cornerstone account. The checking account has a balance of \$69,336.14 (16,000 is loan and \$11,000 in mission payments that have not cleared yet); the Mission account has a balance of \$0 and has been closed; the Cornerstone account balance is \$75,989.87; the Memorial Savings account balance is \$15,017.52 and the RaiseRight checking account balance is \$3,299.21. Gross Profit total of \$27,186.48 (2025 Budget is \$15,152.99), Total Expenditures come to \$12,826.52 (2025 Budget is \$14,334,46).

Old Business

Additional Team Updates if needed -

Reminder - Fellowship Hall will be flipped for a shower March 14 and 15.

Property Team Update - Bill says they have an IT plan to try with the internet in hopes that it improves the speed.

Thanks to Sherri Melichar for identifying that the organ was not working. Since then it has been fixed and enjoyed during the service on February 2. We're lucky to have Mike Dimmer with his constant attention on snow removal.

New Business

1. Review of January Congregational Meeting Minutes - Suggested corrections were made. Tentatively plan June 8 for the next Spring Congregational Meeting.

2. Pastor Relations Team & Search Team - The conference suggests a review process for an interim minister. Need to outline purpose and needs of the team. Keep in mind the Council is admin. Having a Council member on the team may be beneficial. The relations team should share the culture and history of the church in a casual setting. A Search Team is needed to create a new profile. It is not a slam dunk that Pastor Jim becomes the settled minister.

3. Accounting Process Update - There are still concerns with the financial process. It's apparent that discussing the financial organization process needs to be prioritized.
4. Future of Christian Ed - Shandy - Thoughts on the plans for the future. We need to consider how much or what to outsource with the community more or at all. It's important to have a conversation with Pastor Jim as well.
5. Liturgy Opening & Upcoming Position Openings (Fellowship, Property, Clerk, Treasurer) - There are term limits. Please email the Executive Team if you want to chat about roles or to nominate others to learn more.

Any other new business to come before the Council? No.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment @ 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by Rhonda Thompson - Clerk