

(The December minutes were approved at the Church Council meeting on January 9.)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Church Council Minutes

December 12, 2024, 6:30pm

Call to Order – Called by Jodi Cowen, Moderator, @ 6:32 pm.

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

Opening Meditation - Phil found several powerful prayers for difficult times and chose three to share, Be My Guide, Guide My Thoughts, and Stand With Me.

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

Treasurer Financial Updates (Phil) -

-Financial Statements- The Budget vs Actual report. After review there may be a small discrepancy with a monthly EFT pledge amount and whether or not it was posted to the Budget vs Actual report. The accountant, Kris, has been contacted to verify. Phil is asking Kris to add additional lines/accounts. One is 2025 Pledges Received in 2024; and also a REALM Subscription account. Gross Profit total of \$186,039.69 (2024 Budget is \$164,347.50), Total Expenditures come to \$211,420.20 (2024 Budget is \$180,730.16). The checking account has a balance of \$66,250.80 (remember this includes the loan); the Mission account has a balance of \$200; the Cornerstone account balance is \$25,876.05; the Memorial Savings account balance is \$34,707.37 and the RaiseRight checking account balance is \$3,041.94. Since then the Memorial Savings account total has been changed to \$14,832.21 with the transfer of the Making All Things New funds to the checking account to pay for the window work done.

-Pledge Update- Received 59 pledges for a total of \$131,360.00; 16 increased; 27 same; 11 new; and 5 decreased. This is very similar to last December's numbers.

-Christmas Tree Sale- The check has been written for the trees. As of Monday we were at \$23,000 in sales and expenses were \$19,200.

-Breakfast with Santa shows a profit of \$922. There were about 73 people.

-2025 budget draft- Waiting for changes on pledges to update.

Old Business

Transition Updates -

-Interim update- Meeting with a candidate to discuss half time. Spiritual leadership is a priority. Day to day operations with the need for a minister to make service decisions also high on the list of needs. Also to have a presence in the office for 10 hours. Lay people should visit inactive members. The congregation needs to know that they are doing a good job of caring for each other. Designated Interim, means before posting a profile for a settled minister, we decide if he/she fits the newly created profile.

The conference has recently introduced the concept of the Designated Interim because there are times when the Interim fits the congregation's profile and a search is no longer needed.

Property Team -

-Reminder for all to LOCK doors after leaving church.

-Boiler inspection was approved by Church Council but Property Team minutes contradict. There was confusion, it was discussed to wait on servicing the four forced air units not the boiler units. The thought was to combine trips, to have the forced air units serviced when installing a new unit.

-MEI has received the money for the one invoice. MEI is asking if we could pay on the last invoice, all but 5,000.

-The Property Team is still working on assembling the inventory numbers to reduce the insurance premium costs. Payments should be made to ensure coverage is continuous, they can prorate the next payment if the premium is lowered.

Additional Team Updates if needed - Fellowship is sending some Christmas cards out. The Pageant needs a manger. The order of service starts as services normally start, then goes into the pageant with songs/hymns mixed in. Make sure to record the pageant. Shandy has been watching the nursery care Sunday. Most Sundays there are no children in the nursery. At this point there is no need to offer care to cover the nursery when there are no children. There are a few people interested in joining the church, as soon as possible a new member class should be offered. We should have the Ozaukee Flute Choir back. Next Thursday the Bell Choir is performing with the high school choir.

New Business

Christmas Tree Sale Update- Joe Rychtik says there are 126 trees left of 448.

Tech Team Formation- Gary Tackes has been very active helping solve the issues.

Continue with two services on the first Sunday of the month?- Jodi motions to continue with two services the first Sunday of February, March, April, & May if the elevator is not fixed. Nancy seconds the motion. The vote passes unanimously.

Congregational Meetings-

-Review of Fall Congregational Meeting Minutes.

-Winter Congregational Meeting - 1/26/2025- Review minutes from fall and present proposed draft 2025 budget to vote on it.

Any other new business to come before the Council? No

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Submitted by Rhonda Thompson - Clerk