

*(The November minutes were approved at the Church Council meeting on December 12.)*

## **FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

Church Council Minutes

November 14, 2024, 6:30pm

Call to Order – (Jodi) Called by Jodi Cowen, Moderator, @ 6:41 pm.

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

Opening Meditation – Rhonda said a prayer for God’s Timely Relief with Debt and Strength in Faith.

Approval of the Council Minutes – October 2024 (Rhonda) - Jodi Cowen motions to approve the October minutes and Bill Bond seconds the motion. The minutes are approved.

Treasurer Financial Updates (Phil) -

-Financial Statements The budget vs Actual report. Gross Profit total of \$170,939.55 (2024 Budget is \$164,347.50), Total Expenditures come to \$145,322.75 (2024 Budget is \$166,321.94). The checking account has a balance of \$37,917.55; the Mission account has a balance of \$200; the Cornerstone account balance is \$25,876.05; the savings account balance is \$34,707.09 and the RaiseRight checking account balance is \$2,973.19. It is decided to present the Budget vs Actual Report for January through December 2024.

-Pledges- As of November 13, there are nine pledges totaling \$23,120, one increased, 7 are the same, one that is new and 8 more that need to be opened.

-Insurance Claim Update-The claim is open and pending. Nothing more can happen until the work is complete. Once we pay the final invoice they will close the claim. The organ sound system has also been a victim of the electrical storm and will be added to the claim.

-Loan update The loan of \$63,583 (closing costs were subtracted already) has arrived and has been deposited in the bank. Otis has been paid. Tracy motions to move the remaining loan money into the cornerstone account. Phil should pay the balance of the one MEI invoice, but should not pay the second invoice until work is complete.

-The window invoice has arrived. There were two invoices for a total of \$33,500. A small portion of the savings account was previously designated for certain expenses within the church and was not set aside for the windows. That amount will be left in the savings account, the windows will be paid with the remainder of the savings and the remaining share from the checking account.

Old Business

Transition Updates -

-Interim update - No new candidates have come in for the last couple months. Working with the conference minister we’re looking for non traditional/creative ways to fill our vacancy.

Property Team - Bill says the property insurance will be going up for 2025. The new rate will be \$12,050 for both property and worker’s comp. The Property Team will need additional members to help inventory the church’s assets.

They will be working from a provided list of specific financial inventory. Bill is trying to reduce the rate by removing some of the unnecessary coverage. Can Kris help with the audit for workers compensation?

The furnace and AC quote update - The first quote is just under \$13,000.

Additional Team Updates if needed (please see pre-reads)-Shandy is looking for help with some actors for the pageant. Pageant practice is Dec 15 and the pageant will be December 22, during the service. Shandy should reach out to Christin Fluke.

Jennifer asks for volunteers to sign up for Breakfast with Santa. Shandy says you can call Kwik Trip to preorder if you need large quantities.

Nancy says she has met with Beckie, and Amy for an introductory meeting and job responsibilities. Then she met with Beckie, Phil and Kris to talk about Financial processes and using a RACI form to create a document.

2025 Budget- After discussion it was decided to keep fundraising income off the budget with the exception of the Christmas Tree Sale. The 2025 Budget report for the Congregational meeting will have the 2025 year, a budget & actual for 2024 and three previous years starting with 2021. It's agreed that Lighthouse will remain in Missions for the 2025 budget with evaluation midyear. At that time questions like how many FCC students are using it, will the budget support it for 2026 and under what category it best fits.

## New Business

Location of Advent services- There are three Wednesday night quiet candle lit services. Advertise it as upstairs, unless transition is needed. If Don is willing to pivot if any members needing elevator services show up then it would be held in Fellowship Hall, otherwise it can be in the sanctuary.

Congregational Meeting- Create Agenda - The budget will be passed out at the beginning of the meeting. The agenda can be shared prior. The microphone needs to be used for all those speaking. The plan is to offer Zoom and Tracy will monitor it. Jennifer will take notes.

Stewardship Campaign Update-Next steps are to reach out to members that have not sent the pledge in by the end of the month. Matt has a volunteer to help. The plan is to start writing thank you cards.

Christmas Tree Sale- The team had an organizational preseason meeting. The season starts with the trees being dropped off on November 26.

Any other new business to come before the Council? The east door needs to be opened for Chris and Ken. Can we ask some of the children or confirmation students or other members to help with some tasks for them. Louise will ask for him to share how we can help more.

Bill is recommending using a portion of the insurance claim money as a contingency building fund. Phil says to present the Council with some numbers.

Shandy asked if anyone has a problem with the confirmands helping with serving communion.

Council thinks it would be fine for them to help. There was some discussion for a gift in kind donation with the idea of creating a form. Please make sure the doors are locked when leaving the church.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment at 8:20 pm

Submitted by Rhonda Thompson - Clerk