

(The January minutes were approved at the Church Council meeting on February 13.)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Church Council Minutes
January 9, 2025, 6:30pm

Call to Order –Called by Jodi Cowen, Moderator, @ 6:35 pm.

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

Opening Meditation –Jeanne read the meditation, A Church Warden Speaks, by Jay Hulme.

Approval of the Council Minutes – December 2024 - Jennifer motions to approve the December minutes and Bill seconds the motion. The minutes are approved.

Treasurer Financial Updates (Phil) -

Financial Statements - The 2024 year is still open. We have discovered things that are not categorized correctly and a few bills that have not been paid yet. The deficit for the year is roughly \$8,900 but will change with the checks that need to be written yet. Gross Profit total of \$226,556.40 (2024 Budget is \$207,867.00), Total Expenditures come to \$235,454.98 (2024 Budget is \$197,138.55). The checking account has a balance of \$93,161.10 (remember this includes the loan); the Mission account has a balance of \$0 and has been closed; the Cornerstone account balance is \$25,876.05; the Memorial Savings account balance is \$14,832.39 and the RaiseRight checking account balance is \$3,180.99. The Christmas Tree Sales resulted in a profit of \$9156.32. Pledges continue to come in. Phil will continue to add the pledges to the budget right up to the minute the budget is approved.

Old Business

Transition Updates - Thank you for making it to the meeting during the busy holiday weeks. Pastor Jim met Amy and Beckie Thursday morning.

Review Call Agreement & Prepare Feedback

-The Designated Interim Ministry Covenant that we are using is a template from the UCC. We have started adding important elements of our own. Please email any suggestions.

-Are there any tasks that Council is handling that our part-time minister needs to be a part of or aware of moving forward?

-Designated term is a new concept. This is an interim position. Before we can post the profile and interview other candidates we will need to decide if Pastor Jim fits the profile wishing him to become the settled pastor or not.

Additional Team Updates if needed -Otis has just scheduled to come Friday January 17. Bill requests to be involved if and when things start back up with Prime Horizon. Last Sunday there was no heat in the Fellowship Hall area. The Property Team will be drawing boundaries in the south closet around the water heater and furnace to keep things clear of those spaces. The timer on the water heater also failed. Bill plans to solidify snow removal plans with the snow removal company after talking with Mike Dimmer. Mike Dimmer agrees to do everything up to 4 inches.

2025 Budget - Based on pledges received and outside sources we feel the need to be conservative with the 2025 budgeted revenue/income amount. Fundraisers are considered more optional and extra income if they happen. Expenditures have been thoroughly reviewed, cut where possible and set. The minister package totaled \$46,300 but is still in negotiations. This falls within the UCC recommendations for a part-time minister. We are asking all teams and areas of the budget to keep from going over budgeted amounts. Tracy moves to approve the proposed draft budget for 2025 with adding additional pledges received prior to January 26th. Nancy seconds the motion. The vote passes unanimously.

New Business

Winter Congregational Meeting - 1/26/2025

Proposed Agenda:

Approve Fall Congregational Meeting Minutes

Q&A - Designated Interim Minister agreement/Handout

Vote to approve 2025 budget

Any other new business to come before the Council? There is a request to rent Fellowship Hall in March. An email will be sent to get a moving team together to honor the request if we do not have a working elevator.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment @ 8:33 pm

Submitted by Rhonda Thompson - Clerk