

(The March minutes were approved at the Church Council meeting on April 10.)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Church Council Minutes

March 11, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

Call to Order – (Jodi)- Called by Jodi Cowen, Moderator, @ 6:31 p.m.

Jodi Cowen, Tracy Greymont, Phil Stepanski, Bill Bond, Jennifer Dimmer, Matt Riemer, Nancy Hinneberg, Shandy Roehrig, Pastor Jim, and Rhonda Thompson.

Opening Meditation – Nancy read from an article *Living Hope-Resources for Lent* from The Church of England.

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

Treasurer Financial Updates (Phil) -

Financial Statements-The checking account has a balance of \$38,093.44(about \$16,000 is a portion of loan); the Mission account has a balance of \$0 and has been closed; the Cornerstone account balance is \$75,876.05; the Memorial Savings account balance is \$14,748.97 and the RaiseRight checking account balance is \$3,299.21. Gross Profit total of \$37,945.90 (2025 Budget is \$30,305.98), Total Expenditures come to \$26,432.50 (2025 Budget is \$25,702,25). The memorial account is an interest account and accessible for quick withdrawals for any possible emergency. An anonymous donor contributed funds of \$22,365.24 that are to be dedicated to building maintenance (unless there is a fiscal crisis). Quarterly Pledge Reports will be emailed to families three times a year.While the Giving/Contribution Statements will be mailed in January for the previous year's contributions.

Pastor Report - (Pastor Jim) - Thank you for the heartwarming welcome; it is exciting for Pastor Jim to be with us in his spiritual/ministerial journey. Interactions, Men's breakfast, worship, as well as the meet and greets have been positive.Some of the conversations from the meet and greets have provided some understanding for drifted members. There are regular worship attendees interested in "New Member Class". A new member orientation is tentatively planned for this fall. The hope is to foster existing relationships, then the new and follow it with those that have drifted. At a new member class, some council members could share about the vitality of the church from their team perspective. A topic to talk about later, a welcome packet/ideas.

Old Business -

-Welcome Committee / Pastor Relations Team - The plan is to let Pastor Jim settle in.Then work in some welcome meetings during his office hours to share some church history and details. Hopefully after that some or all of the Welcome Team will stay with the team as it evolves into a Pastor Relations Team.

-Accountant Feedback - The Executive Team will meet to have a conversation about how the past year has gone.

-Council Roles for upcoming election - (Liturgy, Fellowship, Property, Clerk, Treasurer)-
The ballot will need to be set in May. Please try to find a successor and let us know.

-Additional Team Updates if needed - Tanner emailed Bill with an elevator repair update stating that the motherboard is under repair, being tested and hopefully back onsite soon. The Property Team replaced a water return circulation pump in the boiler room. The roof has lost lots of shingles and a priority for review. Spring cleaning will be scheduled with a date in hopes of getting students to help while earning Port Pride hours. The building IT is looking at other options after this last test wasn't good.

-Staff Support and Review- A performance review form has been adapted and needs to be updated. A plan needs to be figured out for timing of performance reviews to allow for budget planning.

-Confirmation - Looking at the future, student count is low. This needs consideration.

New Business -

-Property Team - Will continue to open the church on Sunday morning and evening services.- Bill says he'll continue with opening the church and ask for Council back up when needed.

Any other new business to come before the Council?

Easter services- In the past there were three services at 6, 8 & 10 am. There should be one service in Fellowship Hall and one in the sanctuary, at 9 & 10:30 am.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by Rhonda Thompson - Clerk