

APPROVED DECEMBER CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

(The December Minutes were approved at the January 13, 2022 meeting.)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH Church Council Minutes December 9, 2021

Call to Order -By Jeanne Mantsch @ 7:04 PM

Pastor Scott, Jeanne Mantsch, Ric Probst, Mike Spalding, Jennifer Dimmer, Kathy Bretl, Jason Jacque, Phil Stepanski, Savannah Anderson, Bill Bond, and Rhonda Thompson

Opening Meditation - Savannah Anderson- In celebration of year end gave a review of Beatles Documentary. Savannah felt the message from the documentary was “stress can breed success” and remembering that in these times might be beneficial. Merry Christmas!

Approval of the Minutes – November, 2021 – Phil motions to approve the November minutes as amended and Mike seconds the motion. The minutes are approved.

Monthly Budget Review (Kathy) – Lorraine sent the budget report for review and she wanted to note that neither of the reports include salary and tax info from the November payroll except for Lydia's. Lorraine is waiting for reply from account as he is responsible for entering the payroll numbers. Once he enters the numbers she will send new reports. At the end of November we are slightly ahead with what was pledged for 2021 and identified income is over the budgeted amount. However the administrative costs are double and Lorraine questions if the budgeted amount in this category was insufficient the previous couple of years. Also included in this category are the website, telephone and telecom expenses that are higher than budgeted. Lorraine and Jim Schmidt are meeting next week to break down the costs. Lorraine is estimating that the shortage will be \$8900, but the profit from the tree sales (around \$10,000) could leave us breaking even.

Pastor's Moment (Pastor Scott)- Pastor Scott would like to suggest developing a committee for some long range planning. Council could help to enlist eight to ten people for the committee. They could start to meet in January to review and plan, with the direction God prepares the church for the next three to five years. Send names of possible members to Pastor Scott.

Old Business

Fall Congregational Meeting (Jeanne)-It was a success running a live meeting with a virtual option. Pastor Scott did record the meeting. One important thing learned for future reference, is to have the spokes person repeat questions asked for all to hear.

Stewardship Committee Report – (Jason)-There is about 70% return rate of all, or 80% of likely returns. With last years numbers of returns gathered with phone calls they might get another 20%. Currently, pledges for 2022 are at \$136,000 (budget would like us to have \$156,000). The team will discuss if EFT members will be called. The brat fry and cookie sales brought in \$758. It's likely there will be another brat fry in the spring.

(continued on next page)

2022 Budget - (Kathy) -This meeting and January's meeting will be it before the congregation meeting. Kathy is afraid that she is asking Lorraine the wrong questions and will go back to Lorraine again to get Bill an answer on whether or not format of budget can change. Finance is trying to close the gap. Finance team wants to talk to team leaders about cuts. Currently 10% of budget revenue income is to be given to OCWM. The Finance team is looking at what fundraisers can be reinstated. The council will need to make choices with final cuts.

Building maintenance updates – (Bill)-Thanks to those that stepped up for repairs and replacements. Bill would like to meet with staff to go over a few logistics and improve communication and create a better system for needs.

Lighthouse Youth Ministry board of directors' representatives-The Youth Director position will be open at the end of the month and then each church is being asked to conduct a monthly activity and meeting. Support/assistance is needed March 13 and Sunday May 15. Savannah will be stepping down regardless of replacement this spring.

New Business

Report on Tree Lot Sales progress (?)- The last Pastor Scott heard, things were going well.

Lighthouse Youth Ministry Fund Raiser (Savannah)-There is no formal report but over the one weekend two of the four slips marked at \$250 donations were already taken as well as some \$50 donations.

Any other new business to come before the Council? Yes Staff- A year ago with hiring a new pastor it was brought up to create a Pastoral Care/Parish team. It was talked about but has had no follow up and doesn't exist at this point. Ric would like to ask if we can make this happen sooner than later.

Ric reports that reviews will be done soon, but there is debate on what is protocol for what is reported.

On Hold

UCC Legacy Program (Jason)-

Jeanne motions to adjourn and all second it. Meeting is adjourned at 8:22 PM