

APPROVED DECEMBER 2022 CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

(The December Minutes were approved at the January 8, 2023 Church Council meeting.)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH Church Council Minutes December 8, 2022

Call to Order by Jason Jacque @ 6:34

Pastor Scott, Jason Jacque, Phil Stepanski, Bill Bond, Mike Spalding, Eric Olson, Jennifer Dimmer, Shandy Roehrig, Kathy Bretl, and Rhonda Thompson.

Opening Meditation – Jennifer read a section of a book called Barrington Bunny. In the book Barrington doesn't realize what a gift's he has until he is told by a wolf. The wolf tells him his gift is free with no strings attached.

Approval of the Minutes – November 2022 -Mike motions to approve the November minutes and Jennifer seconds the motion. The minutes are approved.

Monthly Budget Review / 2023 Budget Status (Phil) – In the Budget vs Actual report shows that we're \$52,000 short, but feels like we will not end that far off. He paid Lighthouse \$2500 and several donations have come in for the next \$2500. The church's wider mission is still outstanding around \$7000. Phil added a line to the Account Balance report for the balance remaining on the Raise Right Home Depot gift card (originally used to purchase paint for Pre-School classrooms). Kathy will look into filing our tax exempt number with Home Depot. Phil has updated the tax exempt status certificate. Another change to the report is the addition of line Memorial and Special Gifts for better tracking. The report amounts don't match, but there is more money than reported and will get corrected. The Budget vs Actual report needs to be updated with new information. The anticipated amount for Minister's Health/Dental Insurance is going to be wrong. The payment made in December (for January coverage) reflects the increase, but at time wasn't changed in the anticipated amount. The large amount change is due to anticipated rate increase now calculated and adjusted for 2023 and will be in the amount of \$29,552. The Christmas Tree sale expense total is \$19,441.52. As of Monday December 5th deposits totaled \$22,396 for a profit of \$2954.48. Last year there were a total of 97 pledges and this year 71 have been collected for a total of \$135,618. Of the 71, 39 increased the amount, 25 stayed same, four are new, and only three decreased. We are short \$31,182 to reach the \$168,800 that was budgeted.

Pastor's Moment (Pastor Scott) – Communion will be served to some of the shut ins. A Care Team member assists with the communion at the visit. The cookie exchange went well and allowed for cookies to be delivered as well.

Old Business

Awareness Campaign update – (Pastor Scott) - The sixth and last meeting was held just before Thanksgiving. Half of the twelve meetings were cancelled, but 52 people attended. The meetings that were held went well. A common theme among the meetings was the warmth and welcome feeling as well as an affection for the people and the programs offered. Looking to the future brought about more uncertainty than clarity. The needs of the building were mentioned. Most attendees were not shocked, gave feeling of it is what it is, and were going to have to do something. Pastor Scott is hoping to meet as a team to discuss and share any last information and finalize with a report for the January newsletter.

Building maintenance updates – (Bill) – Jenny/Natural Concepts Landscape, LLC, has increased the contracted snow removal beyond the two inch mark, two dollars from \$50 to \$52 each time the lot is cleared. After some confusion last year we have been informed that Webster street sidewalk needs to be included for shoveling/clearing. In an effort to reduce

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costs pest control will be treated as needed and routine spraying will be eliminated. Bill is hoping weed control could be done by a member. Meeting with Jon Crain the city arborist to discuss the creekside erosion. Bill is asking for sanctuary catalogs for the handrail. The boiler room was unusually loud one Saturday morning, despite running fine now. Just in case they are plan to have J&H come to take a look. Bill is wondering about chair terms and if it's okay to continue on. He will be able to continue.

Stewardship (Jodi) - Phil wrapped up the budget with stewardship numbers (see above notes). The average is up about \$400. Jodi via her email said reminder phone calls will happen next week after Phil updates them with the list of those that have not turned in their pledge. Thanks to Amy and Pastor Scott for sending out the reminders. Thank you cards will go out in January.

Rental Space update – (Pastor Scott) -There is no update, the market has been slow.

Associate Moderator position -Once again Pastor Scott was turned down. However another name was thrown in the hat and he has reached out.

“The Examen(ed) Church” – (Pastor Scott) - The start date is January 21. Gary and Meg Tackes, Karl Pradel, Scott Symes, Louise Mollinger, and Terry McManus have agreed to join the team with possibly two others that have committed yet. Others are welcome to join. We are one of six churches starting in January.

Additional Team Updates – (Shandy, Eric, Jennifer, Mike, Ken) – The Church School gift a child program went really well for eight children. They're hoping to do it again next year. In January the Church School class will be making the thank you cards for stewardship and gift a child. In February they plan to do the mac and cheese fundraiser to raise money for the church school budget. The food drive will continue in the new year. The advent workshop went well with cookie exchange. A few new faces were present. January will be another event (card, chili). Mike has a sign up sheet for communion servers.

New Business

Any other new business to come before the Council? - A fundraising idea for next year is a wood gnome and wreath craft workshop to sell with Christmas trees. Bill will take photos to share.

-Request to discuss combining 8 am and 10 am services. The discussion came up at one of the awareness campaign meetings. It is hard for members to see the empty pews. There are many factors, like ride share availability, to consider before eliminating or combining for one service time. Having two services allow for two different kinds of service. Maybe combining on occasion for a special event Sunday. Otherwise promoting ways to develop fellowship. Changing now in the middle of the program year might not be a good idea. Being open to new possibilities and discussion might be needed, but right now it's more important to get people in the door. This is something the council should open to the congregation to have a vote if and when a plan is developed.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment at 8:16pm

PROPERTY TEAM MEETING MINUTES

December 2022 Property Team Minutes