

APPROVED JANUARY 2023 CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

(The December Minutes were approved at the February 9, 2023 Church Council meeting.)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH Church Council Minutes January 12, 2023

Call to Order by Jason Jacque @ 6:54

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

Opening Meditation – Jodi read a section from Martin Luther King Jr.'s, “Christmas Sermon on Peace” 1967.

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

Monthly Budget Review / 2023 Budget Status (Phil)-The Quickbooks communication with the bank has been fixed and will change very little. Mike is asking if numbers for 2022 will be closed by the congregational meeting and Phil says 2022 will be finalized. Pledges are still coming in so Phil would like to wait till Saturday January 28 to finalize the pledge line item. Phil is working with Beckie on terminology and making sure they both submit entries the same way. Both lawn service and pest control contracts have been eliminated reducing those costs.

Pastor's Moment (Pastor Scott)-The Pastor Parish Relations Team discussed a pastoral evaluation. They are prepared to create a process by which to evaluate. What does the process look like? Who should conduct the evaluation? They plan to review every three years the role itself and make adjustments as needed. The UCC has some guidelines that the team will look at and consider putting into place. One of the tools that should be considered is some form of feedback from members of the congregation. Confidentiality should also be a consideration as to what all needs to be shared. Shandy feels their next steps will be to review material, put thoughts together, build a framework working with Ken Matthews, Staff Support & Review Team Chair, then do another overview.

Old Business

Building maintenance updates – (Bill)-They have established a contract agreement with J&H Heating and Otis Elevator. The team has come up with a fix for the south roof line of Fellowship Hall for better drainage. Systematic changing to LED lights is underway. A sanctuary hand rail will be installed at the north end of the altar area. It will look like the handrail in the bell tower stairway. After moving the wires another rail will be installed on the south side. The stain glass quote has come in and is close to the other quotes (\$25,000). They met with Jon Crain and are awaiting his quote for tree removal for trees that are blocking the solar panels.

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES continued...

Stewardship (Jodi)-Phil reports that a total of 89 pledges have been turned in for an amount of \$158,564. The average pledge is \$1781.62. There are nine new pledges, five decreased the amount, 26 stayed the same and 49 increased the amount pledged. Seventeen pledging units from 2022 have not yet made a pledge for 2023. About 85 follow up messages were conducted, which resulted in seven additional pledges. They will start writing thank you notes. Jodi asks if there is any concern for sending the thank yous around the congregational meeting and no one sees any concern.

Rental Space update – (Pastor Scott)- No update. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated. Kathy will check with Troy about getting the flyer updated. Jodi has a place to post the updated flyer.

Associate Moderator position – Any candidates asked have declined. Pastor Scott is welcoming any new suggestions.

“The Examen(ed) Church” – (Pastor Scott) The first event is Saturday January 21 at Marquette. A Thrive Team of Gary and Meg Tackes, Karl Pradel, Scott Symes, Louise Mollinger, Terry McManus and Pastor Scott has been formed. This is a pilot program that will involve a \$2000/\$3000 endowment with the possibility of some seed/start up money as well for any ministry program we may choose to start.

Additional Team Updates – (Shandy, Eric, Jennifer, Mike, Ken)-Church School is going well with a few new faces-some of which have returned. February will bring back the Mac and cheese fundraiser. Fellowship is hosting chili dinner on January 22. On the 21 there will be a wedding, the first in awhile. Gathering of Grands (grandparents & grandkids) is next event. Mike has sent out the communion server schedule and needs some help March 5.

New Business

Winter Congregational Meeting (Jason)-Finance Team will meet January 23 to wrap up the 2022 year. Phil will make copies of the 2023 budget report. Everyone agrees that it worked to shorten the service and hold the meeting in the sanctuary immediately following the service so we'll do it again. For any pledges turned in after the approval of the budget, Phil will include them on a separate revenue line to show the additional pledge in revenue but it won't change the fixed/approved amount.

AED & CPR Training -Bill is hoping to talk about getting some training classes to offer to members and community members. Shandy will share a list of area places and people that aid in the training. The Council agrees this is a good idea.

Membership Count-Pastor Scott and staff have reviewed the roster. They have a rough count of 345 members, 142 friends and 91 inactive members. They plan to send 25 letters asking for confirmation on continuing membership or not. They are hoping to get responses back before the congregational meeting. These are not official numbers.

Succession Planning- Jason is asking each team chair for a list of names of those on each team, and then to nominate one or two that have potential to step up and lead when your term is up.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment at 8:35 pm.