

APPROVED AUGUST CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

(The August Minutes were approved at the September 8, 2022 meeting.)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH Church Council Minutes August 11, 2022

Call to Order by Jason Jacque @ 6:36

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

Opening Meditation – Jason read a few pages from the book Ponder On it, Pilgrims by Charles Hamm. One of the themes throughout the book is the Golden Rule with questions to ask like “What would a wise person do?... person say?... person think?... and finally “What would a wise person feel?”

Approval of the Minutes – June 2022 – Jennifer Dimmer motions to approve the June minutes and Mike Spalding seconds the motion. The minutes are approved.

Monthly Budget Review (Phil/Kathy) -Phil is optimistic that the year will finish off better than predicted as the checking account balance is not decreasing at a rapid rate. Bill asked if the teams would get a budget history and the blank budget sheet again to work next year's budget numbers. Phil is open to suggestions and working together. Breakfast with Santa will not work at this point as a fundraiser for this year.

Pastor's Moment (Pastor Scott) -Pastor Scott met with Jennifer to discuss a plan for a Congregational Care Team. Everyone will be getting a birthday card and anniversary card. Jane Schwacher will continue with card ministry, adding to it with the birthday/anniversary cards. The ministry has options to expand into other forms of connecting like with a follow up phone call for those hospitalized. Some logistics need to be figured out.

Old Business

Capital Campaign Update – (Scott)-The team is rethinking the large dollar campaign. In the fall they'd like to try “Cottage Meetings” (in peer groups of teens, empty nesters...). It could be called, Awareness Campaign. The meetings would hopefully allow connection for sharing of personal needs the church might fill and also hear from the families of what is happening and how can they come back. Then present the families with the church needs that are right on the horizon and ask if/what they could commit to the windows. Then in January come to the congregation with proposal of how to fix the stain glass. Any more raised would be used to start a building fund for the next items needing to be fixed. In the midst getting a discernment process of who we are and a vision of where we want to be.

Building maintenance updates – (Bill)- Bill was given two references for the stain glass company and was able to see the work first hand. The company has rave reviews. The finished product was outstanding. They would be adding a protective outside window. Thistles need to be removed and a date has been set to open this up for volunteers to come assist with the removal.

Rental Space update – (Scott)- Troy is still trying to find renters. If we don't rent it how can we use the space?

Associate Moderator position-Kathy has been talking with someone for the last month, but was recently informed that it will not work with that person's schedule. Kathy has created a list of members that should be considered for the position.

New Business

Definition of a quorum for a Congregational Meeting – (Jason)- A couple of people were asking what the First Congregational Church constitution says about what is a quorum for congregational meetings. If a couple of people would create the wording to add to the constitution, then the Council would vote on it and then bring it to the next congregational meeting for approval vote.

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“The Examen(ed) Church” – (Scott)- Marquette has been given a grant to run this program. The hope is the church comes out of it with a better sense of it's own connection to God; better sense of where God is calling the community of faith to go and what to be about. What is God trying to do here with us, not social radical movements or goals of increased membership. This group may not consist of the usual members and might be for someone that is looking to grow in their faith. A small group of four to eight is ideal for the program. Training would be here, but then a couple of the workshop events are likely to be on a Saturday on campus. Then learning and sharing with other members back at the church. As a whole the Council feels this is important enough to consider and pursue. Jennifer moves to begin the application process. Bill seconds the motion.

Schedule of Church Council Team Newsletter Articles – (Scott)- Teams could highlight what is happening within the team. If there is a need for help it can be mentioned in the article. Each month a different team would be mentioned.

Meditation Schedule- Jason will send a link for each of us to sign up.

Any other new business to come before the Council?

-Bill is asking if the Passing of the Peace can be brought back to the service.

-Bill is asking the council if the property team minutes could be published on the website.

-Christmas Tree Order- Beckie needs to place the order for this year's trees. Council agrees that we should increase the quantity by 10% with additional for the tallest ones. If additional Council agrees prices should also be increased and can be finalized later. Last year's coordinators have completed their last year and new coordinators are needed for this year.

Bill would like to donate an American Flag and have it hung. Jennifer motions to accept the donation and hang it.



PROPERTY TEAM UPDATES AND MEETING MINUTES

Our Property Team is an active church team comprised of a handful of folks from the church. The team keeps a close eye on our church and works to maintain all aspects of our church building and grounds. Bill Bond is their Team Representative on the Church Council. Bill invites anyone who is interested to join the team. They meet around noontime on the last Friday of each month. One of the team members, Claude Zimmerman, takes notes at each of their monthly meetings and drafts minutes. The team would like to share their minutes with the church. Please click below for their recent meeting minutes:

[August 2022 Property Team Minutes](#)



RECORDINGS OF WORSHIP SERVICES

We continue to record our Sunday worship services each week for those who are unable to attend. Be sure to subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#) ("First Congregational Church of Port Washington"). This allows you to receive immediate notification when a service is uploaded.