

(The September minutes were approved at the Church Council meeting on October 10.)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Church Council Minutes

September 12, 2024, 6:30pm

Call to Order – (Jodi) Called by Jodi Cowen, Moderator, @ 6:36 pm.
Jodi Cowen, Tracy Greymont, Phil Stepanski, Shandy Roehrig, Jeanne Mantsch, Matt Riemer, Nancy Hinneberg, Bill Bond, Amy Gilhooly (staff) and Rhonda Thompson.

Opening Meditation – Shandy read a Prayer for Church Meeting, from the Graceful Chapter.

Approval of the Council Minutes – August 2024 (Rhonda) - Bill motions to approve the August minutes and Shandy seconds the motion. The minutes are approved.

Treasurer Financial Updates (Phil) -

Financial Statements- Phil presented a Budget vs Actual Review for January through August 2024. The Actual Column and the Budget Column both reflect the numbers as of 8 months – the budget column does not reflect the full year budget. Gross Profit total of \$132,969.39 (2024 Budget is \$131,494.64), Total Expenditures come to \$125,721.84 (2024 Budget is \$138,838.86). The checking account has a balance of \$22,641.93; the Mission account has a balance of \$200; the Cornerstone account balance is \$25,876.05; the savings account balance is \$34,706.51 and RaiseRight checking account balance is \$2,725.10.

The Cornerstone “demand account” has been added to the Statement of Financial Position – these are funds we do not use for everyday expenses. Historically it has been used for major purchases such as the previous copier. Incoming funds once came from the solar panels, but no longer. The solar panel income is used to offset the energy bill as they are generally equal. This is because the rates have been raised and the solar panel age has created a loss of efficiencies.

- Mid-year contribution statements-Are currently being worked on. The new system requires learning how to generate the report.
- Insurance claim updates
- The 2023 Year-end Financial report is now complete.

Old Business

Transition Updates -

- Interim updates- We continue to interview, but do not have any current in-state options. The last two candidates for Interim offered up expertise in consulting but they are not local. If we found someone local who could focus on worship, they could help us with the other parts.
- Search Committee updates- Emails have been sent to possible candidates, but most have not replied. There are two that have replied that they are not interested.

Nursery Care - Shandy suggests we start with a set few Sundays and build from there when we can. Once the sign-up is set, she can open it to the confirmation class to start filling it in. Beckie can set up the SignUpGenius. Based on Safe

Sanctuary guidelines there does need to be one adult in the nursery when providing the service. There is discussion that the lack of consistency will make it hard for families to plan.

Property Team- Stained Glass Update- Stained Glass work has started. In addition to the window mounting and glass repair on the larger east side windows, they plan to add ventilation to prevent window rot. It will be a few weeks before the project is complete as glass needs to be ordered and then installed.

Prime Horizon updates - They plan to come two days a week. They believe the DHS inspection will result in a need for air in the center two rooms and asked us to get a quote. We should create and post a phone tree of contact names and numbers in case of any emergencies that tenants would have access to in the rooms.

Additional Team Updates if needed (please see pre-reads)- Shandy ordered Bibles for the Confirmation Class. She'd like someone with nice writing to fill out their names. The Pampered Chef check should be directed to the office. Due to a few years of deficit budgets some of the line items moved categories in hopes of a better budget.

New Business

9/29 - Need Council assistance with Sunday service. Christin Flucke will be conducting the sermon, but there's a need for scripture readers and prayers.

Feedback on services in sanctuary- A couple approached a Council member about having service once a month in the sanctuary. With the stained glass work in progress at this time services will remain in Fellowship Hall. However, we will revisit this next month when the window work is complete. If there is no working elevator let's discuss adding another service at next month's meeting.

Property - Boiler quote- The quote came in at \$1235 per boiler for a total of \$1470 for our two boilers. The Property Team would like to alternate the years of maintenance and do one every year. Phil will run a Quickbooks report to get the breakdown of the property team budget line. Phil motions to go ahead with the maintenance of the one boiler that was not repaired last year with the quote of \$1235 even if it goes beyond the Property Team expense budget. Nancy seconds the motion.

Forced Air Furnace-The forced air furnace in the boiler room controls the temperature for the preschool room. There is no AC component at this time. Property Team is looking into a heat/air company to quote the system. Bill will share the results of the forced air inspection.

Phone/Internet lines- The computers are very slow. Some sort of upgrade is needed. Any tenant would need their own line. It is suggested to set up a technology committee to address this problem and bring things up to date.

2025 Budget plans - Each committee needs to think about budget amounts and whether or not new requests are needed. Of course if you do not need the full budgeted amount please indicate that as well. At the Fall Congregational Meeting on November 24 we will present a draft budget. Then in January after

the pledges are received, we vote on accepting the 2025 Budget at the Winter Congregational Meeting.

Breakfast with Santa is scheduled for 11/30 - For consistency sake it should be from 8am to 11am. Thank you, Jennifer!

Any other new business to come before the Council?- Thrive Team would like to provide the results from the survey they conducted at the beginning of the year to the congregation. They would like to ask an interested guest minister to meet with the Thrive team to share an understanding of discernment within the church.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Submitted by, Shandy Roehrig & Rhonda Thompson - Clerk