

APPROVED MAY 2023 CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

(The May Minutes were approved at the June 13, 2023 Church Council meeting.)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH Church Council Minutes

May 11, 2023

Call to Order by Jason Jacque, Moderator, @ 6:37 pm

Attendees: Pastor Scott, Jason Jacque, Phil Stepanski, Ken Matthews (Zoom), Jodi Cowen, Jennifer Dimmer, Shandy Roehrig, Kathy Bretl, Bill Bond, Mike Spalding (Zoom)

Opening Meditation – Phil: Phil chaired the “Covid reopening committee” and found a prayer that is also a good fit for this meeting: “Prayer for Communal Discernment in a Meeting”.

Approval of the Minutes – April 2023- Ken Matthews motions to approve the latest version of the April minutes and Jennifer Dimmer seconds the motion. No discussion. Minutes are approved.

Monthly Budget Review / Church Management Software Update (Phil)-
Statement of Activity shown to identify the income for April.

Highlights:

- Income was increased for April due to Easter donations and Adopt-a-Bill.
- The Dr. Seuss breakfast had an expense submitted (income was shown in March).
- Building usage income of \$200 from the stamping event donation.
- \$875 building usage year to date (over budget, which is great).
- Adopt a bill up to \$6885. (breakdown shown). Request is to keep Adopt a Bill items tallied /accounted for as separate items.
- Not shown - AT&T check refund \$501.07 (just deposited) related to our change to the new service package.
- Bank Balances: Memorial Account balances updated on reports to reflect actuals. \$9000 is unspecified/not allocated. Members in Need fund still exists (started by Jeri Schmidt) = \$873 in that fund - Pastor Scott made aware if it's needed. \$2000 in metal sculpture fund. \$1536 in park project fund. Capital fund - \$400; Barb Liebnow - donation for shrub \$205. Used a donation to buy bell choir music. Reports will be updated next month to show everything in the specific accounts.

New Copier quote: Eight year old existing copier has issues and needs repairs. Phil requested a quote on a new one. Council reviewed quotes from Office Technology group and Novatech. Council agreed to request urgent fixes on the current copier

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(covered under current service contract) and then replace it with new service contract in January 2024 and plan the appropriate amounts in the 2024 budget.

Pastor's Moment (Pastor Scott)- Quick update on Examined church. Team met at Marquette University and heard a speaker discussion on discernment work of the church and how God is at work in the community. Our team provides feedback to the program and we will have information brought back to church for the wider congregation to engage. Team is enjoying it and just finished individual reflections on the effects of the pandemic and God at work in the world. Next month's meeting topic is the effects of pandemic on our faith communities.

Old Business:

Property Team, Building maintenance updates (Bill)- The team met on 4/28. Need to be able to get more current meeting minutes into the newsletter. Team will adjust meeting timing to be more current in reporting. April activities: discussed insurance issues related to March storm. Boiler damage is being repaired by PBBS (recommended by Joe Miller - city worked with them). \$1200 damage +\$150 an hour rate- given to the insurance adjustor. Solar panel inverter was blown up. Gary Tackes is working with Arch Electric to get a quote for insurance adjustor. Four ADA doors were already repaired and given to Phil to submit bills to the adjustor. Fire alarm panel damage affects doors and will be about \$2300 to repair. Ten shingles over the sanctuary on the south side of the roof blew off. (approximately \$750 quote to repair). Several GFI outlets all over church - burned out 15 and were replaced. Thermostat in the minister's office has been repaired. Shandy Roehrig brought up that our insurance premiums will likely increase and we may need to plan for this in the next budget cycle.

Railing installation is complete. Thank you to Claude Zimmerman. A black walnut tree has been taken down by Jon Crain and he will continue working to clear trees. Brett Dimmer is assisting with the creation of a maintenance calendar (Monthly, quarterly, annual with contract information and contacts.)

Jodi Cowen volunteered to ask Amy Gilhooly about a church google drive for committees to store information.

AED and CPR training (Bill)- Eight folks interested - will be hosted for 2 hours after service in June. Date TBD.

Rental Space update (Pastor Scott)- Tamarack Adult Care Services was contacted by Pastor Scott and he has not heard anything back. Team working on this effort will meet

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again next week to see if there are additional ideas or opportunities to pursue. We might need to contact people we talked to last year and see if anything has changed with their situations.

Wedding inquiry from last month did not pan out - they found another venue.

Spring Congregational Meeting - May 21st / Annual Reports/ Capital Campaign - (Jason)- Annual reports due to office/Beckie Perez by Sunday, 5/14. Agenda drafted by Pastor Scott and reviewed by Council. All 3 choirs will perform, baptism and a very short sermon planned.

Nominations: Still need a Treasurer and a Stewardship lead.

Pastor Parish relations - Is still building a minister evaluation process. The team is using guidance from several books to break apart sections based on what our congregation and committees are focused on. They would like to figure out how to include the congregation in the process. Base materials from UCC are being used to build this out. Team progress is good and will complete this over the next 2-3 months to execute in early fall with results at the end of the calendar year. Annual report requested for this new team.

St. Ben's coordinator - No attendees for Tuesday's meeting with Joanne Pierringer. Joanne will stay on for the short term but continues to look for a successor. Pastor Scott and Eric Olson will accompany Joanne on an upcoming St. Ben's trip. Suggestion was to highlight this in the newsletter this summer.

Additional Team Updates (Shandy, Eric, Jennifer, Mike, Ken, Jodi)

Church school - last class was on 4/30. Averaged 13-14 kids per Sunday session. Three 7th graders "graduated" who have been with the program since they were young. Might consider Sunday night activities next year to have an option for families who can't attend Sunday mornings due to sports and other activities. Will ensure no conflicts with Lighthouse.

Eric - no updates

Jennifer - Fellowship - Palm Sunday attendees were served cinnamon rolls. Team received lots of assistance with Laabs funeral. Subs and lunch items planned for 5/21.

Ken - A process of staff evaluations is in flight. Annual report in progress. Structure is in place to move ahead now.

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Jodi - Stewardship - May 19 brat fry - call went out for volunteers and cash donations to offset groceries.

New Business:

Interest surveys will be done again in summer. Last done in spring 2022.

No other New Business.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment 8:21 pm

Minutes submitted by Jodi Cowen



FIVE TAKEAWAYS FROM THE WI CONFERENCE UCC ANNUAL MEETING

The Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting was held at Green Lake Conference Center from June 9 -11. Our church was fortunate to have five members attend in different roles, Jeanne Mantsch was our church representative, Cathy Jones was present in her role as Co-Chair of the Church and Ministry Team of the Southeast Association, Bonnie Jacque was the clergy representative from St. Paul’s UCC in Erin, Don Niederfrank was present as a clergyperson (and having way too much fun driving a golf cart around), and Pastor Scott. Here are Five Takeaways from the “Wisconsin Conference Life Newsletter Annual Meeting Edition”. Follow the links about the rich and insightful material presented to those in attendance.

1. **We’re on a journey to becoming “the next expression of Christ in the world”**

Conference Minister Franz Rigert drew on a metaphor from Stephanie Spellers’ book “The Church Cracked Open: Disruption, Decline, and New Hope for the Beloved Community” in describing the state of the Wisconsin Conference. Although external forces like COVID-19 and racial and political tensions have produced cracks in the Church, Franz said, the Spirit of Pentecost will continue to “refashion and renew this Church . . . to transform us, to empower us to transcend all that limits us, and ultimately to transition us into the next expression of Christ in the world.” [Read the text of Franz’s State of the Conference Address.](#)

2. **We got WISEer**

Delegates to the Annual Meeting unanimously approved a resolution declaring the Wisconsin Conference Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged for Mental Health. The resolution followed a year of discussion by a critical mass of Wisconsin UCC congregations. On Saturday evening, Vicki Harvey of the UCC Mental Health Network emailed Associate Conference Minister Lisa Hart with the news that Wisconsin is the fourth WISE conference in the denomination. WISE is an official designation awarded by the UCC Mental Health Network. “We are so impressed with the unprecedented effort you have made to get a large number of Wisconsin churches entering this process,” Vicki wrote.

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