

OUR CHURCH COUNCIL

Executive Team

Moderator: Jason Jacque (2024)
Associate Moderator: Jodi Cowen (2024)
Clerk: Rhonda Thompson (2025)
Treasurer: *currently vacant* (2025)

Team Representatives

Christian Education: Shandy Roehrig (2024)
Fellowship: Jennifer Dimmer (2025)
Staff Support and Review: Ken Matthews (2024)
Property: Bill Bond (2025)
Community Outreach: Eric Olson (2024)
Liturgy: Tracy Greymont (2025)
Stewardship: *currently vacant* (2025)

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The November minutes were approved at the December 14, 2023 Church Council meeting.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH Church Council Minutes November 9, 2023

Call to Order by Jodi Cowen, Associate Moderator, @ 6:36 pm.
Pastor Scott, Bill Bond, Jodi Cowen, Tracy Greymont, Phil Stepanski, Jason Jacque, Shandy Roehrig and Rhonda Thompson.

Opening Meditation - (provided by Ken) - A daily devotional from "Quiet Times with God" November 9, We Win in the End, with a verse from 1 John 4:4, "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world".

Approval of the Minutes - October 2023 Bill motions to approve the October minutes and Jodi seconds the motion. The minutes are approved.

Financial Administrator Updates - (Phil Stepanski)

- Monthly Budget Review - In the Budget vs Actual Report through November of 2023, there is a Gross Profit total of \$163,572 (2023 Budget is \$202,186), Total Expenditures come to \$193,425 (2023 Budget is \$255,926) for a \$29,853 deficit (2023 Budget is estimated to end with \$53,740 deficit). Phil did not have an account balance report. Phil made a transfer of \$9,000.00 as the main account was overdrawn and payroll needed to be covered. Pastor Scott is asking if there is a need to access some funds from the Cornerstone Account. Phil is thinking that the last of the pledge money will be coming in to cover expenses and we won't need to use the Cornerstone funds. Phil will look into an automatic transfer between accounts to keep from overdrawing again.
- All Teams and Committees are on a spending freeze.

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CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES continued...

Old Business

Property Team/Building Maintenance - (Bill) The Property Team is willing to take on insurance matters like investigating building insurance quotes and renewals.

- Smoke Detectors - Guetzke has not submitted a quote yet for the new reflective smoke system.
- Solar Panels - Quote has not arrived yet and probably won't be taken care of before the end of the year.
- Tree Trimming - Jon Crain was working on clearing the trees. Jodi knows him and will reach out to him about clearing the rest of the trees.

Rental Space Update - (Pastor Scott)

- Harbor Village Infants Program- Pastor Scott has not gotten any response back to the emails he sent.
- YMCA Child Care - The director and several staff toured the facility. It will not work with the current layout and lack of features like sprinkler. Renting to a licensed child care is not looking like an option for rental income. They are passing along a connection for adult care. A church-run child center may have different regulations and could be an option to look into.
- Advertising of Space- if money remains from the Financial Administrator role advertising budget item. With lack of cash in the accounts no paid advertising will be pursued. Tracy will do some brainstorming. Thank you to Doug McManus for connecting us with the YMCA.

Council Updates from Pastor Parish Relations - (Shandy) - More responses did come in with the last email blast. The committee will meet to look over the data and then meet with Pastor Scott. It will be shared with the Council after that.

Council Positions- Stewardship/Financial Administrator - Pastor Scott- It's time for role descriptions to change as new faces take on new positions. The Financial Administrator will be primarily writing checks, paying bills, making reports, and helping to create the budget. The Treasurer will take pledges, track income and gifts. This will implement better practices and safety measures. On Sunday November 12th a team (Pastor Scott, Ken Matthews, Phil Stephanski, Sherrie Dimmer and Jim Schmit) will interview a candidate for the Financial Administrator position. Otherwise a previous candidate, Kathy Bilski, could be contacted to see if she has interest.

Brunch with Santa - December 16 (Jodi) -Tickets are created and available in the office as well at Port Washington State Bank. Amy created wonderful posters. Tiffany has posted flyers and posters around the area. Jodi has a marketing plan to email area businesses and has created a sign-up for volunteers. Jodi and Jennifer will talk to Santa about what activities he will do with the children.

Christmas Tree Sales (Pastor Scott)- The lot will be set up Saturday, November 11, at 8am. Scott Symes donated new stand-alone signs and one for the trailer. Trees will arrive the Tuesday before Thanksgiving and high school students are all set to help unload.

Additional Team Updates (Shandy, Eric, Jennifer, Tracy, Ken)

- Church School - The Gift-A-Child Giving Tree has the ornaments on the tree. Gifts need to be returned by November 25. The children will be making the tree ornaments. Kids Club will be starting this month.

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CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES continued...

- Community Outreach- Once again they teamed up with Church School for the Giving Tree donations.
- Staff Support and Review- Has nothing new to report.
- Fellowship will be making bows for wreaths for the Christmas Tree Sale on Sunday. Next month will be a Make and Take Christmas Swags.
- Liturgy will meet Monday to discuss holiday decorations. Stained glass windows will be moved to Fellowship Hall.

Elevator Repair - Update -(Jason/Bill) - The MEI quote that was presented is what we can expect. Holding off on the repairs will be a 2-3% or more increase in cost.

- Fall Congregational Meeting - The meeting will be held on November 26. An agenda item will be to announce that Window pledges can be turned in at any point now through July 2024.

2024 Budget (Jason) - Listening Session Feedback (Jason)- The group in attendance tended to be more comfortable with slowing down on making the repair to the elevator and gathering all facts and making sure we could afford it. The elevator repair was presented as affordable with a budget expense line. Several attendees seemed to think about all the monetary needs of the church, like stewardship, elevator repair, and the budget and needed more information on the strategy of the current capital campaign. Most of the focus was on the elevator repair and little on the budget. The budget was presented with the six options of ways to get closer to a balanced budget. Pledges and the number of giving units was also a focus of the discussion. Jason feels graphing the pledge units to reflect the increase in pledge amount despite the decrease in overall pledges may be helpful in the next Listening Session. It was suggested to share an average per person pledge amount per week that members could contribute to support the budget and keep the church from a deficit. Increasing the revenue was a favorable budget option, however no suggestions were given as to how to get the increase. It was mentioned that the current options are prioritizing the building over the people. It's important to look at the church ministry. It might help to share the five year capital campaign plan regularly. What would a vote (weighted) look like to gather data for the Council to consider. It would be good to keep the members informed and continue to share all feedback. Listening Sessions:

- Sunday, November 5: 9am in the Dennett Room
- Sunday, November 12: 11am in the Dennett Room
- Thursday November 16: 7pm via Zoom

New Business

Any Other New Business to Come Before the Council? Bill is asking for any ideas on dates for the last AED/CPR training class. Council members suggest waiting till the new year, maybe January 21.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment at 9:06 pm
Submitted by, Rhonda Thompson - Clerk

PROPERTY TEAM MEETING MINUTES

Our Property Team is an active church team comprised of a handful of folks from our church. The team keeps a close eye on our church and works to maintain all aspects of our church building and grounds. The team would like to share their recent monthly meeting minutes - [December 2023 Property Team Minutes](#)