

APPROVED MARCH 2023 CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

(The March Minutes were approved at the April 20, 2023 Church Council meeting.)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Church Council Minutes

March 9, 2023

Call to Order by Jason Jacque @ 6:33 pm

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

Opening Meditation – (Rhonda) I read a poem taken from The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers & Devotions, edited by Arthur Bennett.

Approval of the Minutes – February 2023-Ken motions to approve the February minutes and Mike seconds the motion. The minutes are approved.

Monthly Budget Review / Church Management Software (Phil)-Phil ran the Budget vs Actual report differently then he said he would because the numbers seemed so far off. Just two months in the income is matching expenses. Phil did transfer \$6000 at the end of February to cover payroll. The electric bill was high due to not getting the invoice and then the following month the bill was for both months and caught up to date. Phil would like to invest in a new accounting software program, <https://www.acstechnologies.com/acs/church-management-software>. Kathy motions a move to new financial accounting software/program. Ken seconds the motion. The vote passes and the purchase of new software is approved. Phil made a deposit of \$490 in donations for Dr Seuss breakfast.

Pastor's Moment (Pastor Scott)- The Examined Church Thrive Team group has met. They are learning practices of personal prayer and spiritual discernment. Then they hope to share and help the congregation to develop their own. The Capital Campaign Team met again recently. They are proposing they come to the April Council meeting with a campaign plan in hopes of raising approximately \$30,000 for the stained glass windows in the sanctuary. Then if it's agreed, to introduce the campaign and vote to proceed with the campaign at the Spring Congregational Meeting in May. They'd like to start the campaign now and not in the fall when the Stewardship Campaign starts. After the Awareness Campaign meetings with the congregation in the fall 2022 the team feels it's best to address each issue on it's own slowly with prioritized needs. It was brought up to start a building fund to offset expenses when emergencies arise. The previous window loan was for the window in the bell tower that was falling out.

Old Business

Property Team, Building maintenance updates – (Bill) – The first handrail has been installed. The handrail on the south side should be done in the next week. Internal lighting changes to LED is ongoing. The tree trimming has not taken place yet. Bill needs to check with Phil to see if our insurance has any liability that would cover any accident for fallen tree. Ken would like to know if the tree outside the sanctuary is on the list to be trimmed/pruned.

Rental Space update – (Pastor Scott)- A new flyer has been created. Troy is reaching out to other organizations, but the current market is not good. Both Troy and Karen do not think it is in our best interest to advertise in the paper. They said to use social media and have everyone share the post to hopefully generate more looks.

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CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES continued...

AED and CPR training (Bill)- The team has found another service that charges \$25 less than the first quote. Bill is hoping for ten members to come forward for the training.

Additional Team Updates – (Shandy, Eric, Jennifer, Mike, Ken, Jodi)- Church School Mac and Cheese fundraiser raised \$769 for their budget. There are only two classes left and they plan to end with a little cake as a send off. They may have a need for lightly used crayons and coloring books for the church bags.

Eric's Community Outreach report states that Family Promise moved to a new location and recently welcomed Christ the King church to help with their mission. They have a few needs for household items. Eric plans to share their needs with Amy so she can share the Amazon link with the congregation to help purchase items needed.

Jennifer says the Fellowship Team is hosting a card making event this Sunday. On Palm Sunday Fellowship team will be providing cinnamon rolls after both services.

Mike from Liturgy reminds us that he needs communion servers. He needs an 8 AM on Easter Sunday.

Staff Support and Review Team Report is by Ken and he is working on staff evaluations and making progress. Cathy Jones is helping him with the evaluations.

Jodi with Stewardship, has tried to get May (20) for the first brat fry. The Dr Seuss breakfast served 79 people. Several donations came in. Most needed items were donated. They need to get together and figure expenses, but they think they will profit around \$1200. They are considering doing it again with Santa this coming holiday season.

New Business

Spring Congregational Meeting in June- nominations (Jason)- Jason is planning ahead and with half of the Council up for renewal he wants to start filling out the ballot. Rhonda will stay as Clerk. Kathy will not be continuing as Treasurer and she doesn't have a successor. Jodi will not be continuing in Stewardship. She recommends having a team of four. Mike will not be continuing on Liturgy and doesn't have a recommendation. Bill will stay on Property Team to work on his unfinished business. Jennifer will stay on with Fellowship. Shandy asked if there is a job description for each position. Each leader should create the roll description for their position. Maybe Amy can also add it to the newsletter.

125th Anniversary Team (Pastor Scott, Ken)-They plan to start with informational articles and activities beginning in April. Each month will highlight an area of the church and the different activities that happen. It will run for a year and end Easter Sunday next year. There will be a picnic in the park. If any committee is hosting an event and could combine with the 125th that would be supported and appreciated.

Any other new business to come before the Council? Pastor Scott wants to invite everyone to the Sunday service, Laura Vorwerk, violinist will be joining the choir this Sunday March 12. There is Fellowship after the service.

Submitted by, Rhonda Thompson -Clerk