

OUR CHURCH COUNCIL (Effective July 1)

Executive Team

Moderator.....Jodi Cowen (26)
Associate Moderator.....Tracy Greymont (26)
Clerk.....Rhonda Thompson (25)
Treasurer.....Phil Stepanski (25)

*Terms for Church Council
members: One term shall be two
years beginning on July 1
following the election.*

Team Representatives

Christian Education.....Shandy Roehrig (26)
Community Outreach.....Jeanne Mantsch
& Louise Mollinger (26)
Fellowship.....Jennifer Dimmer (25)
Liturgy.....*currently vacant*
Property.....Bill Bond (25)
Staff Support & Review.....Nancy Hinneberg (26)
Stewardship.....Matt Riemer (26)

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The May minutes were approved at the June 13, 2024 Church Council meeting.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Church Council Minutes
May 9, 2024, 6:30pm

Call to Order – (Jason) by Jason Jacque, Moderator, @ 6:38 pm.

Jason Jacque, Tracy Greymont, Bill Bond, Jodi Cowen, Jennifer Dimmer, Phil Stepanski, Ken Matthews, Shandy Roehrig and Rhonda Thompson.

Opening Meditation – (Bill Bond) Bill read A Meditation for Opening Up by Frank Ostaseski Mindful, Healthy Mind Healthy Life.

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

Treasurer financial Updates (Phil)-

- Financial Statements - Budget vs Actual report was for January and February. Phil says some transactions need to be entered because there is a difference with QuickBooks online version and desktop version (transactions are pulled from the bank and sit in a file to be placed in the appropriate account for online version). Gross Profit total of \$37,697 (2024 Budget is \$34,478), Total Expenditures come to \$35,187 (2024 Budget is \$45,812) for a \$11,335 deficit. The checking account has a balance of \$23,395.87; the Memorial savings account has a balance of \$4,863.00; the savings account balance is \$33,829.79 and the Scrip checking account balance is \$2,164.09. PayPal deposits need to be figured out and Phil will talk to Beckie and Kris more about this. When pulpit supply payment is required, Tracy will email Beckie and Phil as well as copy the Associate Moderator and Jodi. Phil will approve. According to an email from Kris, she is anticipating a loss close to \$15,000 for 2023. Phil mentions that Scott did not get his paycheck on time and had two overdrafts of \$29.50 each. Jodi motions to pay the overdraft fees. Shandy seconded the motion. The vote is approved.

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CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES continued...

Old Business

Property Team (Bill)

- Elevator Repairs Update - Bill seems to be getting different answers from different Otis employees. MEI will be back to do testing as soon as Otis replaces the electrical boards. Then the loan paperwork can get completed.
- Building Maintenance - Electrical panels and outlets are all labeled.
- Church Security - Bill is asking Church Mutual about allowing alcohol on site and if that impacts our insurance needs.
- Stained Glass Window Repairs - Plans are to start at the beginning of June.
- Shredding Event - Carloads of papers were shredded, files going back to 2015.

Open Council Positions: We should post a Help Wanted Ad in the next newsletter.

- Associate Moderator - Open
- Community Outreach - Eric
- Stewardship - Open

Building Usage and Fee Schedule, Alcohol Policy (Bill/Jennifer) - Tabled

Fundraising Committee (Jennifer) - Jodi made some adjustments to Jennifer's draft. She will email the form to each of us for edits. The goal is to post for a Fundraising Committee following edits to the form.

Transition Plans

- Interim Pastor plans (Jason/Jodi)- A new Interim Pastor was suggested. The challenge is that he is a current member and doesn't want to leave as UCC policy dictates when we call a settled minister. The role of an interim is to be a bridge to help us heal.
- Pulpit Supply (Tracy) - May 26 is not covered yet. The UCC site for possible candidates is outdated. Tracy would like Council members to sign up for opening the service announcements. There are talking points available.
 - Payment Process - Tracy will email the pulpit supply completed payment form to the Moderator, Associated Moderator, and Treasurer to be passed onto Kris for payment.
- Contacted Seminaries - This might be a good idea when ready to put together a call for a settled pastor. It might be in our best interest to have an experienced pastor as an interim to help with the healing and moving beyond previous pastors.

Additional Team Updates (Shandy, Eric, Jennifer, Tracy, Ken) - Shandy says Church School has ended. Kids Club has also finished for the program year. Savannah Anderson is joining the Lighthouse Youth Ministry committee as a FCC representative. Jennifer says the next luncheon will be June 23 after the Congregational Meeting. Nothing new for Community Outreach. For other committee reports see various other agenda items.

New Business

Executive Council Report on Thrive Team - The team has been learning a discernment process. They are inviting Council to a meeting on May 19 to share the process and begin developing. They met with the Marquette leaders to introduce phase three of the program. The Marquette leaders recommended discernment on the survey results.

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Staff Support and Review Process - Ken met with Beckie and Amy separately for staff support. Ken motions to increase their hourly rate \$3 for the remainder of the year until the next budget is reviewed. Tracy seconds the motion. During discussions, the consensus was that while we appreciate their extra efforts; we also need to consider the long-term financial impacts. The vote does not pass. Jason motions to grant them a spot bonus of \$300 for additional responsibilities they have taken on. Ken seconded the motion. The vote passed with a majority of yeas. Job descriptions need to be updated. Discussion on removing the land line and getting a church cell phone need to be visited at a later date. Wage increases will need to be revisited with the 2025 budget and future budgets. We need to add some additional team members to the Staff Support and Review Team.

Confirmation Sunday Planning - The staff has concerns with having enough space in Fellowship Hall for all members and visitors with all the special events of May 19th. The Council will ask the choirs to plan to sit upstairs for the service. Service will be down, areas roped off for families. Signs for overflow pointing to the sanctuary. Remind members that it's Confirmation Sunday at 10 am but 8 am will be normal service.

Adopt-a-Bill- Jason is going to work with Amy in hopes of getting the boards up before the end of May. Adopt-a-Bill is required for budget income to offset the low summer income.

Food Pantry Storage - Lorraine Halls reached out to ask if FCC could share some space to allow all three pantries to collect dry goods for packages to feed the migrant workers that come to the county. There would be three pickups August 7, September 18 and October 30 with food donations arriving in July.

Spring Congregational Meeting in June - Each Committee will need to submit an annual report. They are on the FCC website if you need ideas.

Any other new business to come before the Council? Shandy has a letter that came to the PPR. Shandy says that they did not respond to the letter. Phil is saying the money is still in the account. Shandy will email them and let them know the money is still in an account to be used for the sculpture repairs. PPR disbanded and Scott has been removed from the PPR Gmail account. Shandy is hoping to shift the survey, not the results, into the committees folder.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment 9:25 pm
Submitted by Rhonda Thompson - Clerk



YOGA ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Everyone is welcome to participate in a yoga class on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 at church, led by Dawn Stacey, a licensed yoga instructor and PTA. The group meets in the open classroom space across from the Music Room. Each class is \$12.