

## UCCPH Council Minutes, (Dec. 13, 2023) 5:30 pm

**Attendance:** Jan Narracci, Kay Frunzi, Melissa Birdwhistell, Paul Campbell, Gene Eliassen, Al Thompson, Pastor Russ Kirby,

**Reflection:** Jan Narracci shared ideas from the book Rest in the Storm by Kirk Byron Jones. Like Jesus, we need to be in the back of the boat resting at times. We do not have all the answers.

**Moderator Report:** Jan Narracci

There was discussion and decision on how to maintain a space for a wheelchair in the sanctuary.

**Transition Pastor Report:** Russ Kirby

Can we replace the florescent lights with LED lights?

**Motion made, Moved, and Approved** to pay Ben Jenkins an additional \$15 when he plays the piano on Sunday mornings.

Pastor Russ has been at UCCPH for about three months, and he asked the Council for feedback on how he is doing so he can adjust, as needed.

**Treasurer's Report/Covenant Commitment Report:** Paul Campbell

Covenant commitment team met and plan to send out letters to the congregation regarding pledges for the new budget year. Different ideas are being discussed by the Covenant team on how to present the budget allocation.

**Old Business:**

Mission Statement:

A mission statement compels the church to move forward into a desired future in a short statement. Seven people presented suggestions for a mission statement. After looking at all the mission statement suggestions, key concepts were used to develop and adopt a temporary working mission statement, while continuing efforts to finalize a church mission statement. The working mission statement is:

*Just as the Lord loves all people unconditionally, as an Open and Affirming congregation in the United Church of Christ, we strive to welcome all, regardless of ethnicity or sexual orientation particularly those who have experienced disappointment or felt unfulfilled in their precious church exposure. Together we seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with the Lord our God. We have Hope for the future, Joy and Gratitude for what we have been given, and we Love our neighbors as ourselves.*

Safety Issues: It was decided to put the AED (defibrillator) and the First Aid kit in the deacon's closet, which is never locked, to ensure it is always available. A sign will be put on the outside of the deacon's closet door to let the public know where first aid supplies and equipment are located. Al Thompson agreed to oversee this and ensure the upstairs and downstairs First Aid kits are filled.

Music Coordinator/Pianist Job Description: There was discussion on the efforts to hire a music coordinator/pianist. The prior job description was revised, and the decision was made to gather a small team together to think about what our music program is, what we want it to be, and how we get there. After that discussion, the music coordinator/pianist job description will be developed/revised. The

monthly salary of \$750 for a music director had been budgeted for the 2023 calendar year, and the position was not filled.

**New Business:**

Well water testing: We are a public water system and are required to test our water to ensure its safety. This will be done.

Outreach Ministry Team: The outreach ministry team is being expanded to consolidate church outreach efforts.

Executive Session: Al Thompson  
The Council went into executive session.

Adjournment: 7:30 pm

Next meeting: January 10, 2023, at 5:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Kay Frunzi, Vice Moderator