

UCCPH Council Minutes, (January 10, 2024) 5:30 pm

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

Executive Session: The Council went into executive session.

Moderator Report: Jan Narracci

Several people voiced interest in serving on Council. They will need to be vetted by the Nominating Team. Two new people interested in serving on the Council will be presented to the congregation for a vote at the annual congregational meeting on January 28.

Words from Pastor Russ: Russ Kirby

The last day of Pastor Russ's contract is March 6 according to the contract. He will consider extending his contract, if needed. He reported that there are several improvements needed prior to a settled pastor's arrival. The office needs to be repainted and the doors to be soundproofed. Pastor Russ recommends that the door between the office and sanctuary be replaced with a solid door. There is a need for a new office chair, a computer, and an ear mic in the pastor's office. Pastor Russ reported that he plans to tithe to the church and would like the funds be used to upgrade the AV system. Shelly and Pastor Russ will put together a list. It was decided that Sunday, January 14, will be Zoom only due to the frigid air and snow that is forecast to arrive.

Treasurer's/Covenant Commitment Report: Paul Campbell

For the year, the church ended up with a net of \$22,000. The total revenue was down for the year with the rent from the Montessori school carrying us through. Expenses were down from what was budgeted due to having a part-time pastor and no music director hired.

Motion Made, Seconded, and Passed: The decision was made to put \$12,500 in a CD with a guaranteed 5% interest for 6 months.

Covenant commitment team plan to get the church teams to report what they are doing and where the money is going leading up to asking for pledges for the church. Letters will be going out to congregants for pledges for the new budget year.

Old Business:

Music Coordinator/Pianist Position: The revised music coordinator/pianist job description was presented to the Council along with the request that the \$750/month salary be increased to \$1,000 to be more competitive with current rates. A decision was put on hold until the 2024 budget meeting occurs.

Well Water Testing: As a result of the school operating in our church, we are now a public well system. A representative from the state health department will meet with designated church members and school staff to help develop a system for testing our water, and if needed, adding chemicals to make our water safe for drinking.

Outreach Ministry Team: The Outreach Ministry Team is being expanded to consolidate church outreach efforts. Due to lack of communication and response, Angie Law will be withdrawn from the mission team and pastor parish team.

Safety Update: Al Thompson will put the AED (defibrillator) and a new First Aid kit in the deacon's closet, which is never locked, to ensure it is always available. He will place a sign on the outside of the deacon's closet door to let the public know where first aid supplies and equipment are located.

New Business:

Annual Congregational Meeting: The annual congregational meeting will be held on January 28, 2024. At the meeting a quorum will be established, the 2024 budget presented and voted on, and a slate of new Council members and officers will be presented and voted on.

Snow Plowing/Shoveling: The church has already spent over \$1,000 for snowplowing, which is over budget. It costs \$120 every time they come out. Unfortunately, a couple weeks ago, a person who snow plowed got off track and damage was done to the memorial garden. The plow company agreed to pay for the cost of the damage, which will be assessed after the snow melts. Markers are placed now to mark the driveway.

Insurance Cost Increase: The church insurance costs went up substantially. Melissa Birdwhistell is working with the finance team to ensure we have sufficient coverage for the church.

Make Driveway One-way: Due to safety concerns of emergency and elderly parking, the decision was made to make the church driveway one way, from west to east, leading up to the front doors. The reason for this change is that it allows for emergency equipment to be driven next to the front doors. It also is safer for the congregants with mobility issues to be able to park in a location where the driveway is plowed and safe to walk into the church. In the past, some members have had to park next to the snow and had to walk through the snow and ice to get into the church.

Maintenance: The loft windows need to be replaced. No decision was made on this area of concern.

Adjournment: 7:25 pm

Next meeting: February 14, 2023, at 5:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Frunzi, Vice Moderator