

**First Congregational UCC
Building and Grounds Minutes
January 4, 2024, 11 AM Hybrid**

**Present: Barb Bottger, John Bottger, Jeff Kern, Ranna LeVoir, Pastor Enno,
Bruce Tyler, Gwen Mattice, Byron Aldrich**

Old Business:

1. Tattered Flag

1. Tattered remains still need to be removed. **Ranna will keep trying to contact Mike**

2. Light bulbs for the sanctuary -

1. **Gwen will check with PUC for rebates.**
2. **Gwen will order 150-200Watt LED equivalents, dimmable, 2700K or 3000K (soft white) for ~\$14 each through Amazon.** The dimmer will be replaced.
3. Jeff has scaffolding to be used to replace the bulbs. This is a big project.

3. Playground -

1. **Enno will ask Nick Sheehan about scope of business and interest in doing the landscaping and bench and picnic tables.**
2. **Enno will double check with Nancie Demming at County Health on grant deadline.**

4. Building Heating System

1. Gwen noticed our bill says we're using more kilowatts this year (7,332) than last year (7,103) even though it is a milder winter.
2. **Gwen will track this to see if there is a trend.**

5. Snowblowing

1. Jeff reports that the church snowblower is working just fine.
2. **Byron will get rid of the snowblower at the parsonage that doesn't run.**
3. Gwen is making room in the outside storage for easier access to the snowblower.

6. DayCare

1. Hunter is waiting for some equipment before she can open. Our work is complete as far as preparing the space.
2. We will get a note to Hunter about a recycling bin for her to use. Thanks Gwen!

7. Furniture

1. We have 6 little blue chairs that Hunter decided not to use.
2. **Barb will ask Sara Silence (she took the other chairs, tables, etc.) if should would like them.**

3. Scandinavian couch - Anna Latz from Heavy Duty Sewing referred Ranna to Carlson Upholstery in Duluth. **Ranna will check into this possibility.**
4. **Gwen will get in touch with Ranna to arrange a possible trip to Duluth.**

8. Parsonage Fix It List

1. **Chimney** - Mark Spindler cleaned it and noted that the bricks need to be replaced maybe next summer. **Enno will ask Mark if he can do that work.**
2. **Refrigerator** - Replacement is not imminent but should be planned for in the near future.
3. **Kitchen Faucet leak** - **Jeff will take care of this.**

9. Custodian Update

1. Gederah Waver will provide some contacts. **Barb will follow up with her.**
2. **This committee will continue to help with weekly chores. Big thanks to Gwen!**
3. **Enno suggested we increase the pay rate to \$20/hr from \$18/hr.**

10. WOW Bikes

1. Jeff continues to work with Tim Kennedy to clear their garage for storage.

11. Fellowship Hall - carpet has stains.

1. **Gwen and Jeff will try out a carpet cleaner Jeff acquired. If that doesn't work Tom Yuhasey has one.**

12. Master Plan with ATSR for the Building

1. We discussed the timeline Peter sent.
 1. **John will arrange for a zoom call with Peter to clarify the following:**
 2. **We need a separate meeting with community users of the building.**
 3. **We need to set a start date for these meetings.**

NEW BUSINESS

1. Outdoor Advent Trees

1. Enno says it can stay up through January.

2. Annual Report

1. It is due by January 14. **Barb and Gwen will work on this report.**

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, February 1, 11:00 a.m. hybrid

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Tattered Flag - Ranna will keep trying to contact Mike
2. Sanctuary Light Bulbs - Gwen will keep this on her radar.
3. Playground Area - Enno will ask Nick Sheehan about doing the landscaping and bench and picnic tables. Enno will double check with Nancie Demming at County Health on grant deadline.
4. Building Heating Costs - Gwen will track to see if there is a upward trend.
5. Snowblowers - Byron will get rid of the snowblower at the parsonage that doesn't run.
6. Furniture - Barb will ask Sara Silence (she took the other chairs, tables, etc.) if she should would like six blue chairs that Hunter doesn't want.
7. Couch Cushion Reupholstery - Ranna will check out Carlson Upholstery in Duluth and Gwen will see if she can help.
8. Parsonage Chimney - Enno will see if Mark Spinler can do his recommended firebrick replacement.
9. Parsonage Kitchen Sink Leak - Jeff will take care of this.
10. Custodian - Barb will follow up with Gederah. Enno suggest increase in pay rate from \$18 to \$20/hr. Gwen will continue to do light cleaning.
11. Fellowship Hall Carpet - Gwen and Jeff will clean big stains.
12. ATSR - John will contact Peter in regards to community meetings and a start date.
13. Annual Report - Barb and Gwen will submit by January 14.

Spring Projects:

1. Parsonage Front Deck -
 1. Bruce and Byron will work on this when the wood becomes available.
 2. Back Deck - Maintenance on the large rear deck can be deferred until spring or later.
2. Fencing around the Garden
 1. Will require post hole digging in the Spring.
3. Sidewalk on north side of building leading up to the grotto -
 1. Gwen will reach out for help and get this done in the Spring.
4. Raised cement curb in front of the church -
 1. It has been temporarily fixed and will be further addressed in the Spring.