

**First Congregational UCC
Building and Grounds
Jan. 5, 2023, 11 AM Zoom**

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

- 1. Architectural Proposal Letter:** John presented the letter he has written to present to the board. Steve asked if we know who the original architect is and John says yes, it is someone in Duluth. Jeff has a lot of architectural drawings on his computer and a computer key. Discussion on when the building was built. Decided it was built in 1972. Edits were suggested. ADA accessibility may not be necessary but it will help gain grant dollars. A final draft will be shared and sent to the board for discussion on Feb. 14. A list of architects will be generated by the committee. Jeff wondered if there were architects listed on the key he gave to John. Enno will send some contacts that may have names of architects used at other churches and a woman who made a presentation through Interfaith Light.... Let's include a photo of the church in the letter.
- 2. Snowblowers:** Jeff repaired one snowblower and will deliver to the parsonage. We have not been keeping the sidewalks clear. Gwen has been shoveling the lower driveway. It remains to be seen if the snowblower at the church will still need to be warmed up inside before use!
- 3. Advent Tree:** Thanks Jeff for cutting down the trees and branches. Gwen will pile the branches on the property for use in the Spring in the outdoor fire pit.
- 4. Spring Clean Up Day: Saturday, May 20.** Start time and projects will be planned at May meeting
- 5. Report for Annual Meeting:** Thank you John for writing that up.
- 6. Parsonage Walk Through:** Still needs to happen.
- 7. Status of Playground Equipment:** It's old but good. Used by the community. We could add wood mulch from Hedstrom's on the Spring Clean Up Day. The plywood is splintering and could be replaced on May 10.
- 8. Radiator Valves:** They are leaking. Jeff is researching valves (about \$100 ea) and can replace them. Jeff is looking for someone to look over the whole system.
- 9. Oil Boiler System:** Enno witnessed smoke coming out of it which means it was being used. Jeff will look into this to see if it is defective. It keeps the building warm when electricity goes out. If we could shift to conventional electricity, it could be a cheaper alternative. **Jeff will contact Jessie Scheid to take a look at the oil boiler. We could contact Jeff Suck, Superior Heating, as well. Enno will text his phone number to Jeff.** Discussion about the buried oil tank and replacing oil and propane. **Jeff will contact to the city to find out about qualifying for dual fuel.**
- 10. Electric Boilers:** Installed in 2012 and are in good shape!
- 11. Day Care Proposal and Playground:** The sidewalk leading to that door is crumbling. Is a ramp required? The owner of the Day Care would be responsible and could get grant money to do such work. We will evaluate the sidewalk for the Spring Clean Up Day.

- 12. Thanks to Bruce and Buff for presenting information on solar panels. Steve will send information to the committee about churches using solar panels.**
- 13. Hot Water Heater:** Gwen will put them on by next weekend and wants us to hold her accountable!!
- 14. Next Meeting: March 2, 2023, 11 a.m.**