

Approved Minutes, 2.20.24  
First Congregational UCC, Grand Marais, MN  
Board of Directors

Present: Tom Yuhasey, Moderator; Stephen Aldrich, Francie Beaster, Kevin LeVoi, Bruce Tyler, Pastor Enno Limvere, ex-officio. Absent: Jen Delfs, Carol Winter

Call to order by T. Yuhasey, 5:02 p.m.

Recorder: B. Tyler

We Gathered with the Mission Statement reading, expressed joys and concerns, pondered a spiritual question, and listened to the communication agreement.

#### Immediate and Urgent Business

- Acknowledged the prior approval by email of the January Minutes.
- Noted that the Winter Meeting Minutes will be approved by the Summer Congregation Meeting.
- Approved the agenda with additions: a line item Committee (H) to discuss creation of a Capital Campaign Exploration Committee. Moved, LeVoi; second, Aldrich. Unanimous.
- Approved the Financial Report from Treasurer, K. LeVoi. Moved, Tyler; second, Beaster. Unanimous.

Highlights: Giving is, as usual for this time of year, higher than budget due to Thrift Stores profit-sharing, Daycare rent, early individual donations, and a bequest. Treasurer stated he is mindful of watching cashflow closely.

Annual Conference Yearbook information, Workman's Comp. self-audit being prepared;

- Newsletter articles due in office by Tuesday, February 27.
- F. Beaster volunteered to write an article for the Newsletter
- March Board meeting: Tuesday, March 19, 5-7 p.m. on Zoom and-or in person (?).

#### Old and New Business

##### 1. Pastor's Report Highlights:

- Friday evening supper and worship attended and appreciated by 17 people on January 29. On hold during Lent due to Weds. Sabbath discussion group; plan to resume once a month for several months to see whether it is worthwhile to continue.
- Pastor away on April 12-14 for Our Wholes Lives (OWL) training; asked if Board members would lead Worship. S. Aldrich volunteered to present Message. Other board members agreed to lead worship. Pastor needs confirmation of this by end of month so he does not need to search for a substitute pastor.

##### 2. Mutual Ministry Goals for 2024: Lengthy discussion

- Continue with fellowship, community building activities
- Revise Mission (and Vision?) Statement(s); include/seek input from those opposed at last vote. Noted that vote was impacted by two opposing voices. Abstentions count as no votes.
- Develop Outreach Strategies (related to comment at Winter Meeting: "What spiritual needs are not being met in the community?")

- Board members asked to let these percolate and return “realistic” ideas by email before next meeting.
  - Pastor suggested that: Three parts to Evangelism: Sharing the Good News; Making the church a welcoming space; Actively seeking new people to come worship and join us. First two currently doable. Last requires knowing what our true mission is, as expressed in an updated Mission Statement.
3. Report on Architect’s visit.
    - Many congregants attended in-person meetings; no community partners did, though have summarized phone interviews and received surveys from several.
    - After brainstorming both Needs & Wants and Guiding Principles, attendees asked to help rank priorities.
    - Top priorities: Accessibility (elevator, doors); heating plant, energy efficient windows and doors, insulation. Guiding Principles: Welcome and accessibility for all, environmentally friendly, cost-effectiveness
    - First report from ATSR expected in 3-4 weeks. Zoom meeting with B&G and any Board members as they are available.
  4. New Custodian, Rory, has begun working. Has chosen cleaning products. Works Tuesday and Saturday.
  5. Neil Pederson has tendered resignation effective Mar. 1. Hearty thanks for his work reorganizing the office and improving the look and effectiveness of our communications. Congratulations on his new job as Assistant County Attorney. Ad for job posted in News-Herald. Plans afoot for a farewell event TBD.
  6. Formation of Capital Campaign Exploratory Committee: Board voted to create a committee of 5 to explore feasibility. Pastor and Moderator to invite and recruit. Motion by S. Aldrich, second T. Yuhasey. Unanimous.
    - Guiding principles: Secure commitments from lead donors, foundation support, government support and rebates (Inflation Reduction Act funds)
    - Need to know what the cost of “Must do” items will be.
  7. Declaration of highest priority to keep heat on, and system running properly, especially for daycare’s sake. In event building maintenance volunteer is unable to make it work, Pastor, as statutory Business Manager, encouraged to speedily call professional HVAC people, stressing the emergency nature.
  8. Sign ordered by Hunter has arrived. Larger than she imagined, best placement will be north side of daycare entrance deck railing.
  9. Failed to ask for volunteers to present the News of God’s Work in the Community in worship. Recorder will email a list to board members.

Church life and committee reports: Brief as the time was getting short for adjournment.

1. Building and Grounds report covered above.
2. Worship committee meeting on Weds., 2/21. Will discuss alternative methods of collecting the offering, in response to a member’s report of feeling guilty about not putting in an offering as the plate passes.

Adjournment at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bruce Tyler, Recorder

