

Douglas UCC Church Council Minutes

July 16, 2019

Present: Pastor Sal, Peter Mueller, David Geen, Gemina Petruzelli, Beverly Hawkes, Sue Fleming, Mary Fechtig

Absent: Larry Fuerst

Guest: Anita Halcyon

1. Opening Prayer – Pastor Sal opened with prayer at 6:00 pm.
2. Welcome/Introduction – Pete welcomed Anita Halcyon to discuss “Time Banking.”
3. Presentation – Anita Halcyon
 - a. “Time Banking/Neighbor-to-Neighbor Program Proposal for Douglas UCC.”
 - Definition of “Time Banking”, National and Michigan resources, Uses for DUCC, Benefits of an Exchange, Service Samples, and Member Engagement Ideas.
 - Anita offered further assistance to answer questions and initiate this program at DUCC.

Action: Council will read over Proposal and decide if this “service exchange system” is feasible at this time at DUCC.

4. June 2019 Council Minutes – **Motion** from Sue to approve. Mary second. Minutes approved.
5. Pastor’s Report – Pastor Sal distributed July report prior to meeting.

Highlights:

- a. *Two Sunday Summer Services* (9 am and 11 am) have begun with new congregants at each. Attendance and giving remain high. Coffee hour is between the two services. Pastor Sal thanked staff (Peter and Jeff) and Sunday Volunteer Coordinator (Mike VerMerris) for their flexibility.
- b. *Annual Congregational Meeting* was held on June 16. Pastor Sal thanked the presenters.
- c. *Holland Gay Pride* event June 22. Church members and Pastor Sal staffed the DUCC booth to greet attendees and hand out DUCC rainbow wristbands and Pride buttons.
- d. *Twenty New Members* were welcomed to our church June 30.
- e. *Sabbatical Discussion Groups* lead by Pastoral Relations Committee included 30 participants. PRC to meet July 28 to review feedback.
- f. *Douglas Social* June 27 was a success. Next social July 25.
- g. *Highway Cleanup* July 13 three mile “Adopt-a-Highway” attended by 8 UCC members. Additional cleanup tonight.
- h. *Lights for Liberty* march July 12 in Holland facilitated by the Social Justice Team protested detention center treatment of immigrants and children.

- i. *Annual Church Picnic* August 7 (6-8 pm) Beery Field.

Discussion: Pastor Sal – Congregant concerns regarding content and length of time taken during Sunday services for “Joys and Concerns.”

Action: Pastor Sal will provide further explanation to the congregation explaining the meaning of “Joys and Concerns.”

6. Financial Report – Mike Boston distributed June report prior to meeting.

Highlights:

- a. *Missions* – Pastor benevolence \$25 added.
 - b. *Church Operating* – Monthly income was favorable by \$3,240 which includes a \$1,000.00 Michigan Conference UCC grant. Year-to-date income is favorable by \$12,571.
 - c. *Expenses* – Monthly expenses were favorable by \$4,310. Year-to-date expenses are favorable by \$5,029.
 - d. *Cash Flow* - Cash balance decreased \$26,944 due to several forecasted costs that culminated in June.
7. Financial Oversight Committee (FOC) – Mary reported on the following.
 - a. Request from the committee asking council to empower them to provide oversight of the Treasurer noting:
 - This would be a two-way relationship between the FOC and the Treasurer with the FOC providing not only oversight but also support, assistance and protection for the Treasurer. The Treasurer will also have the opportunity to pass issues and concerns through the FOC.
 - The FOC would provide an annual audit thereby saving the expense of an outside audit.

Motion from Sue: Council empowers the Financial Oversight Committee to provide support and oversight of the Treasurer. David second. Motion approved.

8. Trustee Report – Larry via Pastor Sal and Pete
 - a. Retreat House deck – Larry may have found someone to remove.
 - b. Laundry machine issues resolved.
 - c. Five raccoons relocated from behind the church.
 - d. Friendship entryway hall floor repair to commence the end of the week.
9. Committee/Group Updates
 - a. *Grant Proposal* – no updates.
 - b. *Creation Justice* – “Adopt a Highway” clean-up.
 - c. *Social Justice* – “Light for Justice” march. PBS Documentary “Traces of the Trade” to be shown at DUCC on August 18. “White Privilege” curriculum to be offered for six alternating weeks beginning in September.
 - d. *Stephen Ministers* – Laurie VenDenBeldt completed leadership training. Paul Burdick offered council members support if needed.
 - e. *Facilities update* – Mary
 - Mayotte group presented to committee in June different potential options including costs based on Mayotte’s prior visioning sessions with congregants. Lively discussion resulted in committee requesting Mayotte to develop additional concepts based on suggested ideas and present them to the committee. Committee members also encouraged to develop their own ideas if so desired.

- Following completion of the above, council will schedule a two hour meeting with the committee to review outcomes.

10. Ongoing Business

- Church picnic* August 7, rain date August 8. Many volunteers signed up. Help needed for games. Gemina will ask Louise and Bob Kenny to facilitate.
- Pastor Sal Sabbatical*
 - PRC held two sessions with thirty congregants to answer questions, address concerns and gather ideas.
 - Data will be compiled by PRC with decisions by end of July to cover twelve Sundays.
 - List compiled of Ordained and Lay Pastors within the congregation to help with other duties.
 - Grand West Association will provide support if congregant hospitalized or passes away.
 - Administrative Assistant job description to be developed, approved and posted inviting congregants to apply.
- Constitution and bylaws* – Updates have been done but more work is needed. Mary offered to work with Pete and Karen Clark to assist in moving forward with the process. Reminder: changes to the Constitution and Bylaws must be approved and voted on by the congregation.

11. New Business

- Organizational Chart Approval*
 - Following discussion the Mission Grant Committee title was changed to Grant Proposal Committee. Art Guild/Design Committee was changed to two separate entities namely, Art Guild Committee and Design Committee.

Motion from Sue for these changes. David Second. Motion approved.

- Sanctuary Church* - Pastor Sal asked by congregant if DUCC had thought about becoming a sanctuary church.

Action: Pastor Sal will share with council material from UCC regarding same and put on as future agenda item.

- Sunday Altar Flower Fund* – congregants not signing up to volunteer to provide weekly flowers. Suggestions include:
 - Epistle and bulletin reminders of process.
 - Consider creating a “Flower Fund” to pay for flowers when needed.
- Informed Congregation* – discussion of how to better inform congregation about opportunities to participate in and engage with church committees and activities. Suggestion: “Expo” with representatives from church groups and committees.
- Adjournment* at 8:10 pm. **Motion** from Sue. Mary second. Motion approved.

