

June 2022 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

Attendance: 53 members attended in-person and 3 members attended via Zoom – a quorum was established.

Call to order - Moderator Pete Mueller called the meeting to order at 11:30am and opened with a slide presentation.

Opening Prayer - Pastor Sal opened the meeting with a prayer.

Welcome -Pete Mueller welcomed the 14 new members since our last Annual Congregational Meeting. Council members were then introduced and asked to stand while Pete presented a succinct description of each member's role. It was also noted that Council member name tags are in blue to enable easier recognition of Council members.

- Peter Mueller – Moderator
- Beverly Hawkes – Recording Secretary
- Stacy Honson – Treasurer
- Jim Kern – Financial Secretary
- Kelly Wright – Trustee
- David Keen – Member-At-Large
- Stan Greene – Member-At-Large

Minutes – Bev Hawkes – June 2021 meeting minutes have been posted in the E-pistle for the past 2 weeks for review. Chris Clark **moved to approve**. Pam Chappell second. Minutes were approved.

Pastor's Letter – Pastor Sal noted that, “The past two years have been ones of great challenge for all of us, but I'm grateful that we are gradually emerging from it and that our church has continued to grow and thrive.”

Highlights:

- Thank you to church members for their overwhelming stewardship the past year. Because of this incredible support and generosity, “our church has been able to continue its mission of spreading the good news, working for justice, caring for creation, and helping our neighbors in need.”
- This past year, we have donated more than \$40,000 to local charities which is “absolutely extraordinary.”
- We continued to care for one another through our church's Congregational Care Team and our Stephen Ministry program.
- Our Creation Justice Team led us in a beach and highway cleanup as well as a Dark Sky Week book study and presentation and subsequent updating of all the church campus exterior lighting to make it “dark sky” compliant.
- Our Social Justice Team focus this past year has been on sponsoring and caring for an Afghan refugee family. Because to this effort the family is thriving.
- Our social groups such as True North, Men's Group, weekly contemplation, and Chi-Gong have helped to keep people feeling connected and involved.

- We continue to be a strong and visible presence in the community at-large such as leading an Animal Blessing; participating in the vintage car parade; sponsoring the Community “Pride in the Park” event; taking part in the Christian Neighbors 40th anniversary celebration; and, the opening of the “Century of Progress” exhibit at the History Center. Several events were hosted at the church including an evening concert, workshops and presentations. The Friendship Hall continues to be used throughout the year as a meeting space for several community groups. Our Retreat House continues to host guests who are seeking a place of spiritual rest and renewal as well as interns who are working at local non-profits.

Pastor Sal concluded his message expressing gratitude for “our church leaders and committee members” and “to all of you for your presence and for your continued support of this very special little church which God has entrusted to our care. As always, I am honored and grateful to serve as your pastor.”

Committees – Karen Clark – Grant Proposal Committee (GPC) members include Tim Lemanski (new committee chair), Sue Fleming, Beverly Hawkes, Barbara Lucier and Mike Mok.

A. *Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Grants Awarded:*

1. New Organizations: approximate total \$13,000.
 - a. Lighthouse Immigration Services
 - b. Step-Up Men’s House
 - c. Lifeline Ministries
 - d. Center for Dispute Resolution/Mediation Services
2. Organizations that received funding in the past: approximate total \$22,000.
 - a. Christian Neighbors
 - b. Rotary Club of Saugatuck-Douglas (RCSD).
 - c. 70X7 Life Recovery
 - d. Interfaith Action of Southwest Michigan
 - e. Sylvia’s Place

Karen reminded church members to contact GPC members if they know of a potential organization that could benefit from funding.

Proposed 2023 FY Budget – Stacy Honson reviewed and explained the Operating Budget (Revenue and Expenses) and the Capital and Major Maintenance Budget (AV platform and front doors refinish, sanctuary refresh, new roofs and memorial garden fencing). There were no questions. Wendy Hamlin **moved to approve**. Larry Fuerst second. Motion approved.

Updates: Pete Mueller gave a brief synopsis of the Council’s decision to transition from Facility Plan A to the current Facility Plan B. The review included changes that resulted from the pandemic. In particular, Sunday services are not only in-house but are also available for online viewing around the world. Pete reminded us that during pre-pandemic summers, two Sunday services were necessary to accommodate the large number of attendees. Members are now slowly returning to in-house but not yet in the numbers as before. The questions of what to do for outreach remain. Should resources be directed towards additional seating or focus more on office and meeting spaces? Should AV technology take priority? These questions will continue to be explored by Council. For the present time Facility Plan B seems the correct and necessary direction as we move forward.

- A. *Facility Plan B* – Pastor Sal, Bud Baty, Kelly Wright, Jeff Spangler.
 Noted: Maintaining the historical character, charm, obeisance and warmth of our church remains a priority during these overdue renovations.
1. Sanctuary Refresh – Pastor Sal shared that the last sanctuary refresh was 20 years ago. We are grateful for the \$10,000 donation left to the church from the estate of Walt Lawrence that will be used towards this endeavor.
 - a. Bud Baty displayed a sample of the muted blue/grey wallpaper and explained that the color will blend well with the stained-glass windows.
 - b. Pews and wainscoting will be refreshed with stain touch up and polyurethane.
 - c. The Audio-Visual platform will be expanded to accommodate the A/V equipment and personnel as our digital presence continues to increase. The design was created by Jeff Spangler.
 - d. The church’s front doors will be stripped and re-stained noting that this is a temporary 2-3 year “fix.” The doors will eventually need replacement. Noting the historical importance of the doors, if/when they are replaced, the doors will continue to be utilized on the church campus.
 2. Roof – The ABI Inspection Services report from last year showed that the church and steeple, Friendship Hall, Retreat House, and Retreat House garage roofs needed replacement. Kelly Wright displayed the Timberline 50-year green roof shingle sample that closely matches the current green shingles. The work is scheduled for July 26 and will take 3 days (weather dependent) to complete.
 3. Memorial Garden Fence needs replacement. Kelly Wright continues to obtain quotes and will present to Council.
- B. *Afghan Family Support Task Force* – Louise and Bob Kenny presented background information and the struggles that the Afghan family that we are sponsoring went through prior to their arrival here in Douglas. A review of the family’s progress included the father gaining employment and getting a driver’s license, learning to go food shopping, budgeting, health care needs and doctor visits and acquiring the many skills necessary as they adjust to life here in America. The Task Force continues to mentor the family and provide support. The search for future housing for the family is a priority as they grow in independence. The family is very grateful for everything we have done for them and express this on a continual basis.
- C. *Security Review* – Pete Mueller gave a review of the measures in place regarding security including recommendations from Douglas PD. Parked patrol cars and/or additional patrols are available from Douglas PD when requested. Greeters are trained to recognize suspicious activity and keep cell phones with them.
- D. *Methods for Giving* – Julie Ridl gave a review of ways to give (also available at DUCC’s website).
1. Online Giving
 2. Text-to-Give
 3. Planned Giving
 4. Facebook Pay
 5. Give + app
 6. Talent Donation

Noted: Pastor Sal and Julie are exploring the possibility of an online mobile application for the church.

Appreciation and Affirmation – Pastor Sal

- A. *Thank you gifts were presented to:*
 - 1. Marty Coffin for serving as Trustee.
 - 2. Karen Clark, Peg Donahue and Dan Ryan for serving on the GPC.
- B. *New Council Trustee* – Welcome to Kelly Wright.
- C. *Trustee Crew* – Welcome Mike White, Kathleen Mueller, Larry Fuerst.
- D. *Council Term Update* – Thank you to Council At-Large Member Stan Greene for willing to serve 2 more years.
- E. *New GPC Members* – Welcome to Barb Lucier and Mike Mok.
- F. *New GPC Chair* – Welcome to Tim Lemanski.
- G. *New Pastoral Relations Committee Member* – Welcome to Ginny Mikita.

Questions: Question regarding Facility Plan A and concern about it not moving forward as planned pre-pandemic. Pete explained in more detail the rationale behind the decision to proceed with Plan B at this time and reminded all that there are still open questions that need to be addressed before proceeding with the expense of a major physical plant expansion.

Adjournment at 11:04am. Mike Mok **moved to adjourn**. Larry Fuerst second. Motion approved.