

APPROVED Church Council Minutes

April 21, 2020

Present: Pastor Sal, Peter Mueller, Gemina Petruzelli, Beverly Hawkes, Mary Fechtig, David Geen, Sue Fleming, Marty Coffin (via Zoom).

1. *Opening Prayer* – Pastor Sal opened with prayer at 6 pm.
2. *Welcome and Introduction* – Pete welcomed Pastor Sal to his first council meeting since returning home from his sabbatical.
3. *March 2020 Minutes* –Bev distributed drafts prior to meeting with no corrections or additions.
4. *Pastor's Report* – Pastor Sal distributed prior to meeting. SEE ATTACHED.

Highlights:

- Report expressed gratitude to council, the congregation, worship leaders and speakers, PRC, Julie Ridl, Congregational Care and Stephen Ministers for their leadership, guidance and support shown to each other and to our church during the sabbatical and the challenge of Covid-19.
 - Church attendance during the sabbatical remained strong prior to the pandemic shut-down and continues to be strong during our online Sunday worship videos. Thank you to Director of Music, Peter Black for music videos from home, special musicians and readers and Gregg Smith for his help with video production.
 - Our congregation continues to stay connected via Zoom for “coffee hour” following Sunday worship. Members are checking in with each other and Congregational Care and Stephen Ministers continue to meet needs.
 - “Office hours” via phone have been maintained by Pastor Sal to assure everyone feels cared for and connected.
5. *Financial Report* – Gemina – distributed prior to meeting by Mike Boston. SEE ATTACHED.
 - Update for month of April 2020 to date: giving has been strong both online and checks received but is less than April 2019.
 - Request from Gemina that all spending outside of the standing monthly expenses be approved by her until further notice. This includes budgeted expenditures.
Action: Pete and Gemina will notify committee chairs of same.
 - Update on Facebook giving button – Pastor Sal
Julie Ridl sent in necessary paperwork for Facebook approval. Process can take 2-4 weeks.
 6. *Trustee Report* – Marty
 - Friendship Hall ceiling leak due to shingles blowing off.
Action: Marty will replace necessary shingles and noted that the roof will need replacement in 1-2 years.
 - Retreat house:
 - a) Furnace filter replaced.
 - b) Front screen door repaired.
 - c) Front door key pad will be replaced when pandemic restrictions allow.

7. *Ongoing Business* – Pete

- Friendship Hall “life drawing” classes updates.
 - a) Teacher is a professional and well known in the local art community.
 - b) Classes will last for 6 weeks. Windows will be covered and privacy concerns maintained.
 - c) A donation will be made to the church for use of the hall.
 - d) Pastor Sal has no issue with the request.

Action: Council approved the use of the hall when pandemic restrictions allow.

8. *New Business*

- Additional Church Council decisions:

a) March 31, 2020 via Zoom (Pastor Sal, Bev, Peter, Gemina, Mary, David).

- ❖ Issue and Discussion: Continuation of Administrative Assistant, Julie Ridl’s 20 hour/week position for the remainder of this fiscal year.
 - Congregational feedback has been very positive regarding her job performance during pastor Sal’s sabbatical.
 - Julie has strong digital space background and the skills necessary for needed technological projects (i.e. creation of church data base including the verifications of email addresses and phone numbers, implementation of church wide mobile texting notifications etc.).
 - Congregational communication is especially needed for the foreseeable future due to Covid -19 pandemic. The shut-down will require integrated “Be the Church” communication and group engagement (i.e. book discussions/social justice and creation justice videos etc.).
 - Community involvement has accelerated due to Covid -19 (i.e. coordination of SDvolunteers.com resourced database with the offer of assistance as needs are identified).

Motion: from Mary to continue Julie Ridl’s Administrative Assistant position of 20 hours/week under Pastor Sal’s direction with a focus on digital platform projects. Position will be re-examined at the end of this fiscal year (June 30, 2020).

David second. Motion approved.

- ❖ Issue and Discussion: Church budget concerns: Income is below budget for the past 3 months possibly due to Pastor Sal’s sabbatical, no offertory collections and Covid-19 financial consequences.

Action: On-line giving reminder in the E-pistle and a personal appeal from Pastor Sal.

b) April 10, 2020 via Zoom (Pastor Sal, Pete, Gemina, Mary, David, Bev, Marty).

- ❖ Issue and Discussion: From Financial Oversight Committee (FOC): Should DUCC utilize the technological mechanism available from Facebook that allows for donor giving.

- Ease of use: donor button would be located below Pastor Sal's Sunday worship video.
- This mechanism is already in common use by churches and other non-profits.
- Affords additional options for giving beyond what is currently offered.
- Facebook vendor manages the account for a small fee and provides reporting.

Motion: from Pete to move forward with the Facebook technology that will allow for an additional option for donor giving to DUCC. Marty second. Motion approved.

Action: Gemina will collaborate with Julie Ridl to initiate the Facebook donation option. Julie will develop a slide as part of the worship video that will show the various options for giving to DUCC.

- ❖ Issue and Discussion: From FOC: Should DUCC apply for the Federal Payroll Protection Program (PPP) to be used towards Pastor Sal's salary?
 - Does DUCC truly need the monies?
 - Church/state separation issue.
 - DUCC tax exempt not-for-profit status.
 - Not in alignment with DUCC spiritual and prosperity beliefs.

Motion: from Gemina to not apply for PPP. David second. Motion approved.

- Grant Proposal Committee –Sue
Forever Curious Children's Museum (Fennville) \$1000 grant request vetted and approved by FOC.
Action: Sue will notify FOC (Karen Clark) that Council's decision is on temporary hold due to church financial concerns.
- Updated DUCC brochure – Pete distributed draft prior to meeting. Request that brochure photos be more inclusive showing the diversity of our members.
Action: Council needs to review brochure further prior to approval.

9. *Adjournment* – 6:45 pm.

Motion: from David. Bev second. Motion approved.

Next Meeting: May 19, 2020 at 6 pm.