

# APPROVED Church Council Minutes

February 15, 2022

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Present: Peter Mueller, Beverly Hawkes, Stan Greene. Pastor Sal Sapienza, Stacy Honson and Jim Kern attended via zoom.

Excused: David Geen, Marty Coffin.

1. *Welcome and Introduction* – Pete
2. *Opening Prayer* – Pastor Sal opened the meeting with prayer at 6:14 pm.
3. *January 2022 Meeting Minutes* – Bev distributed the final draft prior to the meeting.  
**Motion:** from Jim to approve. Stan second. Motion approved.  
**Action:** The minutes will be in the E-pistle and posted on the Friendship Hall Bulletin board.
4. *Pastor's Report* – Pastor Sal distributed the report prior to the meeting.  
Highlights include:
  - a) An update on the Afghan family the church is sponsoring and a thank you to the Afghan Task Force facilitator Bob Kenny and to all who have “donated their time, talents, and treasure to helping the family.” Both the local *Commercial Record* newspaper and the National UCC website ran articles about our church’s efforts.
  - b) Our church’s Design Team (Bud Baty, Jodi Berault, and Floyd Fleming) have agreed to lead the Facilities Team in making aesthetic improvements to our church building.
  - c) Ideas are being developed for a celebration this summer of our church’s 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.  
**Action:** The detailed report will be in the E-pistle and posted on the Friendship Hall bulletin board.
5. *Financial Report* – Stacy distributed a financial summary, P&L comparison, and Budget vs. Actuals FY22 prior to the meeting.  
Income for January (net of earmarked donations) was \$23,554 or \$2629 over budget. YTD income (net of earmarked) is \$170,843 or \$24,368 over budget.  
Expenses for January in all categories are under budget except for utilities. Net income for January is \$6073 vs. a budgeted loss of \$2,833 (net of earmarked). YTD income is \$2025 vs. budgeted loss of \$19,835 (net of earmarked).
6. *Trustee Report* – Pete
  - a) Marty will continue in the Trustee position until his term ends on June 30. His decision to continue for another term is pending.
  - b) A team is being developed to assist the Trustee that will include Kelly Wright, Mike White and Kathleen Mueller.
7. *Committee/Group Updates* – Pete  
Grant Proposal Committee:
  - a) Karen Clark will be stepping off as GPC Chair. Best practice has been for a current GPC member to move into the moderator’s role. The suggestion that the committee add 1-2 additional members was put forward and discussed.

**Action:** Pete will discuss with current GPC member if there is interest in serving as moderator. Pete will ask church member proposed by Council if they are interested in joining the GPC.

- b) Brother Al Mascia OFM Grant Proposal application for \$6,000 was distributed to Council members prior to the meeting. Brother Al requested funding for his project of using his musical and songwriting abilities to write a one-person musical with the goal of bringing people of diverse sentiments together in a spirit of openness, reconciliation and healing. GPC supported funding for \$4,000 (noting that Brother Al's Order is a 501(C)(3)).

Discussion:

- 1) Concerns expressed regarding the setting of a precedent that provides funding to an individual's project rather than a community endeavor.
- 2) Funding sources for a project of this type are available from more appropriate organizations such as the Michigan Council for the Arts.

**Motion:** from Stan that Council decline the grant request. Jim second. Motion approved.

**Action:** Pete will notify Karen Clark of Council's decision.

8. *Ongoing Business*

9. *New Business* – Pete/ Pastor Sal

- a) Copyright Claims Resolution (Reuters & AFP) – Church member and attorney Mary Fechtig has been negotiating on our behalf for several months with the Higbee law firm. A settlement offer of \$750 for the AFP claim and \$500 for the Reuters claim is their final position (which is \$1,750 less than where we started). Mary recommends that Council approve both settlements as quickly as possible. **Motion:** from Stacy that we pay the settlement of \$750 for the AFP claim and \$500 for the Reuters claim. Jim second. Motion approved.

**Action:** Pastor Sal/Pete will notify Mary of Council's approval and decide who will sign the Settlement Agreements.

- b) Council terms review – Pete reviewed Council members term limit dates noting that his term limit as Moderator is fulfilled this June 30. Best practice is that a current member of Council moves into the vacated Moderator position. Pete shared that he is willing to stay an additional year if no one from Council steps forward.

- c) 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – Pastor Sal

Discussion and Ideas:

- 1) A summer event to celebrate our church's 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary could be combined with our annual church picnic that has been on hold for the past 2 years due to the pandemic.
- 2) A Sunday in July right after church would be convenient for congregants to attend.
- 3) Verification that there are no conflicting Douglas events.
- 4) Get permission to block off the street by the church.
- 5) Ask the Mayor for a proclamation.
- 6) Maybe the History Center could be involved.
- 7) Consider the possibility of live music.

**Action:** Pastor Sal will consider dates and verify that there are no conflicts with other community events. Discussion will continue.

d) Community Pride Event – Pete

The church has helped in the past to financially support this one-day event. After speaking with church member Greg Harvath, Pete noted that this year's celebration will be a week-long and more costly. Several activities at different venues are planned that include a parade with a celebrity Grand Marshal, the Dunes, Women's Club in Saugatuck, History Center etc.

Discussion:

- 1) We will continue to support this event by sponsoring a specific scheduled activity that aligns with our values and interests.
- 2) Pastor Sal suggested a church service during the celebration week with a focused homily on the celebration.

**Action:** Pete will ask Greg to contact Pastor Sal regarding the planned events to determine our sponsorship. Pastor Sal will report back to Council.

10. *Next Meeting Date* – March 15 @ 6pm.

11. *Adjournment* – 7:10pm.

**Motion:** from Jim. Stan second. Motion approved.