

APPROVED Church Council Minutes

January 19, 2021

Present: Pastor Sal Sapienza, Peter Mueller, Gemina Petruzelli, Beverly Hawkes, Mary Fechtig, David Geen, Stan Greene, Marty Coffin (via Zoom video conference).

1. *Welcome* – Pete
2. *Opening Prayer* – Pastor Sal opened with prayer at 6:30 pm.
3. *December 2020 Minutes and Mid-year Congregational Meeting Minutes* – Bev distributed the final drafts prior to the meeting.
Motion: from Stan to approve. David second. Motion approved.
Action: Julie will post in the E-pistle.
4. *Pastor's Report* – Pastor Sal distributed prior to the meeting. See attached.
Highlights:
 - a) There is still much to be grateful for even though “2020 was one of the most challenging years in our church’s 138 year history.” We continue to make plans with great hope for this coming year.
 - b) Our virtual presence continues to grow enabling our Progressive Christian message to reach “far and wide beyond our church walls.”
 - c) Gratitude to the team who organized the Congregational Meeting held on January 10th via Zoom and attended by over 50 congregants. Feedback on the meeting has been positive.
Action: Julie Ridl will post Pastor Sal’s detailed report in the E-pistle.
5. *Financial Report* – Gemina. Income remains favorable to budget. Narrative report attached.
 - a) Financial Oversight Committee (FOC) recommending that \$35,000 be moved from the TCF Bank checking account to the United Church Funds (UCF) investment account.
Motion: from Gemina. David second. Motion approved.
 - b) Tracking the four annual UCC special collection amounts has become more difficult due to the increase in the number of revenue streams and lack of identifiers for donation designation.
Suggestion: Moving forward, send to UCC the amount budgeted for UCC special collections.
6. *Trustee Report* – Marty
 - a) Thank you to Marty for fall clean-up.
 - b) Microwave door at 88 Spring St. repaired.
 - c) Need to follow-up with Patrick for snow shoveling. David shoveled campus at last snow event.
Action: Marty will shovel snow tomorrow if needed and follow-up with Patrick. Also will check that the snow blower in the Spring St. garage is in working order, gasoline is available etc.
 - d) Pete requested that Marty replace the furnace filters with HEPA filters (suggested

by a congregant at the Congregational Meeting) when in-house church services return.

7. *Committee/Group Updates* – Pete

Grant Proposal Committee (GPC) request from SW Michigan Interfaith Action for \$1000 grant and that the grant be awarded annually without the need to re- apply.

a) Background: Interfaith Action is a peace and justice collaborative of 40 faith communities including DUCC. Currently there are three working groups who focus their work on:

- 1) Common Life – Interfaith work in areas where we connect because of and through our diversity of faith.
- 2) Common Home – Focus on environmental stewardship, migration, (economic migrants, refugees, humanitarian protection), global collaboration and peace building.
- 3) Common Good – Focus on issues of social and economic discrimination, inequality, and exclusion (racism, LGBTQ+ exclusion, and xenophobia), health and violence (hate crimes and gun violence), poverty, hunger and homelessness, and income inequality.

b) Discussion:

- 1) Interfaith Action sponsored a gun violence prevention symposium at DUCC in 2019. They have also been working with the City of the Village of Douglas on gender identity non-discrimination protections.
- 2) GPC is still in discussion regarding Interfaith Action’s request for annual \$1000 grants be given without the need to re-apply.

Motion: from Stan to award Interfaith Action a single grant of \$1000. Mary second. Motion approved.

Noted: Council will postpone decision on Interfaith Action’s request for \$1000 grant be automatically awarded annually until GPC reaches a resolution regarding same.

8. *Ongoing Business* – Pete

Facilities Committee moderator Dan McGavin has offered to reassemble the committee (would need to replace the two members who have moved) should the need arise such as meeting with architects etc.

9. *New Business* (Pastor Sal left the meeting)

Compensation Committee recommendation to council - Bev, David, Pete

- a) Because of the Covid -19 unknown financial consequences to the church last June, FY 2021 compensation was limited to medical insurance increases only with the agreement that the committee would revisit this decision in January of 2021.
- b) Because revenue continues to remain favorable to budget, the committee recommends that a cash bonus be awarded.

Motion: from Gemina that \$3000 bonus be given. Marty second. Motion approved.

Action: Pete will notify Pastor Sal of council’s decision.

10. *Next Meeting Date* – February 16 @ 6pm

11. *Adjournment* – 7:08 pm.

Motion: from Pete. Bev second.

