

APPROVED Church Council Minutes

July 20, 2021

Present: Pastor Sal Sapienza, Peter Mueller, David Geen, Beverly Hawkes, Stan Greene, Stacy Honson, Jim Kern, Marty Coffin.

Guest: Kathleen Mueller

1. *Welcome and Introduction* – Pete welcomed Kathleen Mueller who requested to revisit the Retreat House policy.
2. *Opening Prayer* – Pastor Sal opened with prayer at 6:01pm welcoming in the new fiscal year 2022 as well as Stacy and Jim as they begin their new positions on Council.
3. *June 2021 Meeting Minutes* – Bev distributed the final draft prior to the meeting.
Motion: from Jim to approve. David second. Motion approved.
Action: Julie Ridl will post in the E-pistle and Friendship Hall bulletin board.
4. *Pastor's Report* – Pastor Sal distributed prior to the meeting. See attached.
Highlights and Updates:
 - a) Since the return to in-person services on June 6, the average attendance is 90 people each Sunday in church with average online views of 500.
 - b) Comcast internet installation is underway enabling livestream Sunday morning services to start soon.
 - c) Fourteen people attended the “New Members Class” on July 18 as our church continues to grow.
 - d) Midweek contemplation has returned on Thursday evenings from 5:30-6:30.
 - e) Honored to serve as a delegate to this year’s UCC National Synod held online from July 11-18. Information about important resolutions that were passed is forthcoming.
 - f) Thank you notes posted on Friendship Hall bulletin board from Andy DeBrader for the donation payment to National UCC’s technology/internet access fund and from Laurie VanDenBeldt.
Action: The detailed report will be in the E-pistle and posted on the Friendship Hall bulletin board.
5. *Financial Report*
 - a) Stacy reported for FY2021:
Income: \$289,595
Expenses: \$204,555 (includes \$34,138 for missions/social action)
Net income: \$85,040
Cash account: \$243,085
 - b) Jim provided a review of the Sunday offering collection and counting process. A summary of the procedure will be sent to Council.

6. *Trustee Report – Marty*

- a) Attended the Physical Plant Task Force meeting. Inspection reports from ABI Inspection Services were reviewed with immediate concerns addressed. Bob Kenny will be sending council a summary.
- b) Repaired faucet leak outside the church building.
- c) HVAC at Retreat House on hold pending 2 additional bids.

7. *Committee/Group Updates – none reported.*

8. *Ongoing Business*

- a) Covid-19 issues and planning – Pete
Does the recent surge in illnesses and hospitalizations due to the Coronavirus Delta variant affect our current procedures?

Discussion:

- Congregants not yet comfortable with in-person Sunday services continue to stay home.
- A large majority of our congregants are fully vaccinated.
- The Friendship Hall offers social distancing for in-person Sunday services.
- Unvaccinated congregants are requested to wear masks.
- At higher risk for severe illness persons continue to wear masks if they do attend services in-person.
- Air purification units are in use. Masks and hand sanitizer continue to be available.
- Individual disposable communion juice/wafer cups still in use.
- Coffee hour with food and drink remains on hold.

Action: Council will continue to monitor and follow CDC guidelines and make further decisions on specific safety measures as necessary.

- b) Retreat House policy revisit – Kathleen Mueller distributed prior to the meeting the policy which included the original wording under ‘Guests’, and the updated wording under ‘Guests’ as approved by Council at the June meeting. Kathleen asked Council to revisit the new wording expressing concern that it is not specific enough in identifying who is welcome as well as addressing inappropriate requests.

Discussion:

Less specifics within the policy may be best practice with Church Council serving as backstop regarding inappropriate requests.

Motion: from Stan to approve wording under ‘Guests’ to read:

“DUCC Retreat House welcomes pastors and church staff. The Retreat House is not to be used as a short or long-term vacation rental or temporary housing. On occasion, the Retreat House may serve as overnight accommodations to visiting ministers, guest speakers, presenters or others under the discretion of the Church Council.” Jim second. Motion approved.

9. *New Business – Pastor Sal*

- a) Music – Jeff Spangler submitted a proposal to Council requesting \$200/month in compensation for his position as Cantor.

Motion: from Stacy to approve the request of \$200/month compensation. Marty second. Motion approved.

b) Music – Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI) fact sheet and a note from Jeff Spangler were distributed prior to the meeting.

- **In sum:** Jeff Spangler shared that church musicians are concerned about DUCC operating in a legal manner as it pertains to copyright. Musicians can legally download sheet music but not to perform/record/stream without a church copyright license. Posting our services on YouTube and soon to begin live streaming makes licensing especially important.
- Church copyright licensing that would meet the needs of DUCC is affordable and can be purchased online through CCLI. The basic license is \$297 annually and the additional streaming license is \$93.60 annually.

Motion: from Stan to purchase both the basic and streaming copyright licenses from CCLI for an annual cost of \$390.60. David second. Motion approved.

Action: Pete will notify Jeff to proceed with purchase.

c) Live Streaming Equipment – Chris Clark and Mike White have researched costs and are requesting we approve purchase (via Amazon) of:

- HDMI cables - \$12.99
- HDMI splitter - \$13.99
- Elgato Cam Link 4K - \$118.99 (video capture card)
- Acer Aspire 5 laptop - \$799 (Intel i7 10th gen, Quad-Core, 20GB RAM)

Motion: from Bev that we approve \$944.97 for live streaming equipment purchase as requested. Pastor Sal second. Motion approved.

Action: Pete will notify Chris to proceed with purchase.

10. *Next Meeting Date* – August 17 @6pm.

11. *Adjournment* – 7:45pm

Motion: from Jim. Stan second. Motion approved.