

# APPROVED Church Council Minutes

June 15, 2021

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Present: Pastor Sal Sapienza, Peter Mueller, Gemina Petruzelli, David Geen, Beverly Hawkes, Stan Greene.

Excused: Mary Fechtig, Marty Coffin.

Guest: Stacy Honson

1. *Welcome and Introduction* – Pete welcomed Stacy Honson who has accepted the position of Treasurer effective July 1<sup>st</sup>.
2. *Opening Prayer* – Pastor Sal opened with prayer at 6:02pm.
3. *May 2021 Meeting Minutes* – Bev distributed the final draft prior to the meeting.  
**Motion:** from Pastor Sal to approve. David second. Motion approved.  
**Action:** Julie Ridl will post in the E-pistle.
4. *Pastor's Report* – Pastor Sal distributed prior to the meeting See attached.  
Highlights and In Addition:
  - a) Kudos:
    - Thank you to all who helped with the emotional “back to church” service on June 6<sup>th</sup> with over 100 congregants in attendance.
    - Thank you to Chris Clark for coordinating Comcast’s internet installation.
    - Thank you to everyone who took part in, and helped organize the Community Pride “Care-A-Van” event.
    - Thank you to the Building Committee that met with ABI Inspection Services for the campus inspection on May 27<sup>th</sup>.  
Note: No urgent repairs were reported. Pete will share the ABI inspection documents with Council.
    - Thank you to Ruth VandenBosch for arranging the private Zoom event with Dr. Bernie Siegel on June 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - b) Officiated three weddings since last month’s Church Council meeting. Honored to officiate Larry Sharp’s “Celebration of Life” service at the SCA.
  - c) Honored to be selected as a delegate for UCC National Synod to be held the week of July 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - d) The Commercial Record ad was changed to reflect our return to in person services in addition to our online service.
  - e) Received a thank you from Hudsonville UCC for the donation towards their “Raise the Roof” campaign.  
**Action:** The detailed report will be in the E-pistle and posted on the Friendship Hall bulletin board.

5. *Financial Report – Gemina*

Revenues remain strong. Narrative and spreadsheet reports pending.

**Action:** Gemina will coordinate with Stacy the turnover of the Treasurer position. Pastor Sal will confirm with Julie Ridl her willingness to manage bookkeeping duties. Gemina and Stacy will coordinate with Julie regarding same.

Noted: Mike Boston and Will Gervais announced they will be leaving the Financial Oversight Committee. FOC meetings are currently on hold until additional members are recruited.

6. *Trustee Report – Marty via Pastor Sal and Pete.*

- a) Larry Gammons kindly offered to provide a cleanup crew for Spring St. grounds.
- b) The church building outside water faucet is leaking.
- c) Thank you to David for maintaining the zinnias.
- d) Thank you to Stacy Honson and Dick Bont for cleaning up the Memorial Garden.

**Action:** Pastor Sal will notify Marty about the leaking faucet.

7. *Committee/Group Updates – Pete distributed Lighthouse Immigrant Advocates (LIA) grant proposal prior to the meeting.*

Grant Proposal Committee (GPC) recommends funding LIA in the amount of \$4,000. These funds will be earmarked for Allegan County immigrants.

**Motion:** from Bev to grant the \$4,000 request to Lighthouse Immigrant Advocates. Stan second. Motion approved.

**Action:** Pete will notify Karen Clark (GPC).

8. *Ongoing Business – Pete*

- a) May 20, 2021 – Request to council from Pete via email that we approve the purchase of (2) white Jade HEPA air filtration units from Surgically Clean Air for use in the Friendship Hall.

**Motion:** from Bev to approve the purchase. Gemina second. Motion approved 6 yea/2 absent.

- b) Capital Campaign – Pete

The consensus from Council is to continue the current status of keeping the campaign on hold.

9. *New Business*

- a) Retreat House Policy Proposal – Pastor Sal distributed a draft of “Douglas UCC Retreat House Policies” prior to the meeting. Updating the RH policy became necessary to clarify the use of the Retreat House with guidelines to avoid future misunderstandings.

Background:

- RH coordinator Kathleen Mueller has been receiving requests for holiday weekend vacation reservations rather than the RH intended use as a spiritual renewal respite.

Discussion:

- Suggestion that in addition to the updated policy, the Retreat House page on DUCC’s website include an online application for booking reservations.
  - Suggestions regarding wording changes under GUESTS.  
**Motion:** from Stan to approve the “Douglas UCC Retreat House Policy” with the following changes:  
Wording under section entitled GUESTS to read in its entirety:  
DUCC Retreat House welcomes guests of any faith tradition who are seeking a place of spiritual retreat. The Retreat House is not to be used as a short or long-term vacation rental or temporary housing.  
David second. Motion approved.  
**Action:** Pastor Sal will update the policy as approved and discuss with Kathleen the possibility of creating an online RH application process.
- b) Annual Congregational Meeting Planning – Pete distributed the June 27<sup>th</sup> agenda draft prior to the meeting.
- June 2021 meeting notification and June 2020 Congregational Meeting Minutes Draft are being posted in the E-pistle for 2 weeks prior as required.
  - Sign-up sheets will be provided to confirm a quorum.
  - The meeting will be held in-person and via Zoom.
  - Karen Clark (GPC) will review the 2021FY grant dispersals.
  - Mike Boston (FOC) (via Zoom) and Gemina will present for approval the 2022FY budget.
  - Pastor Sal will review group activities.
  - Julie Ridl will review methods of giving.
  - Pastor Sal will offer appreciation to those who have served and welcome new council members.

10. *Next Meeting Dates* – Congregational Meeting June 27 @11:30am.  
Church Council Meeting July 20 @6pm.

11. *Adjournment* – 7:45pm.

**Motion:** from Pastor Sal. David second. Motion approved.