

APPROVED Church Council Minutes

June 20, 2023

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

Guests: Mark Johnston, Mike Mok, Mike VerMerris.

1. *Welcome and Introduction* – Pete welcomed Mark Johnston, Mike Mok and Mike VerMerris who will be joining Council July 1 following approval at the June Congregational Meeting.
2. *Opening Prayer*- Pastor Sal opened the meeting with prayer at 6:01 pm.
3. *May 2023 Meeting Minutes* – Bev distributed the final draft prior to the meeting.
Motion: from Jim to approve. Stacy second. Motion approved.
Action: The minutes will be in the E-pistle and posted on the Friendship Hall (FH) bulletin board.
4. *Pastor's Report* – Pastor Sal distributed the June report prior to the meeting.
Highlights:
 - a) Thank you to church members who helped with our church booth at the Pride in the Park event during the Community Pride week in Douglas and for attending the “Book Banning” discussion as well as the kick-off event with Michigan Attorney General, Dana Nessel.
 - b) 14 people attended out New Members Class on June 11 and will be officially inducted during our Sunday service on June 28.
 - c) Our Creation Justice Team is partnering with the Saugatuck/Douglas District Library for a “forest bathing” event on July 8.
 - d) Thank you to Stacy Honson and Dick Bont for hosting a get-together for Council members at their beautiful home on May 31. Dick’s walking tour of the amazing and beautiful gardens was enjoyed by all.
Action: The detailed report will be in the E-pistle and posted on the Friendship Hall bulletin board.
5. *Financial Report* – Stacy distributed May’s financial reports prior to the meeting: YTD Profit and Loss Comparison; Balance Sheet as of May 31, 2023; Budgets vs. Actuals FY23 P&L; and, FY24 budget draft to be presented at the annual Congregational Meeting on June 25.
May Highlights:
 - a) Income was on target: \$23,238 vs. \$23,025. Expenses were slightly over causing an operating loss of \$1900 versus a projected loss of \$4200. Expenses included a \$3353 deposit paid to Sharp Construction for the work to be done on the north sanctuary wall.

- b) On a YTD basis:
Actual net income: \$333,957/Budget: \$306,475.
Expenditures: \$381,059/Budget: \$375,064.
Noted: The expenditures include the new roofs, gutters, sanctuary refresh and Spring Street (SS) refresh which were not budgeted. FY24 budget does not include funds for capital improvements.
Motion: from Jim to approve the FY24 budget as presented. Kelly second.
Motion approved.
6. *Trustee Report* – Kelly distributed the report prior to the meeting.
- a) Completed: A tax-exempt account for DUCC was set up at Menards; finalized SS front door lock programming and access codes sent to relevant users; fabricated 3 campus signage backer-boards; installed new sign at Retreat House (RH); RH garage cleaned; SS video technology user instructions posted; A/V media cabinet removed from the FH; and, organized and stored snow removal equipment in SS garage.
 - b) Requested quotes from four contacts for the grade reduction at SS west side.
 - c) Pending: FH entry and SS front door signage; installation of new RH smoke/CO2 detectors; north sanctuary wall repair (tentatively scheduled for early July); FH entry refresh (tentatively scheduled for late June or July); repainting of church exterior window arches (July 19); update documentation of the church sprinkler system; and, assemble a tool kit to be located on the church campus.
 - d) Noted: Jeff Spangler consulted with an engineer to evaluate the FH structural concerns and to make recommendations. A site visit may not occur until mid to late fall.
7. *Committee/Group Updates* – Pete distributed prior to the meeting the Grant Proposal Committee (GPC) recommendations for funding that included descriptions of how the funds will be used:
- a) Sylvia’s Place - \$6,000.
 - b) Rotary Club of Saugatuck/Douglas - \$5,000.
 - c) Center for Dispute Resolution/Mediation Services - \$4,000.
Motion: from Stacy to approve the funds as requested. David second. Motion approved.
Action: Pete will notify Tim Lemanski (GPC moderator) of Council’s approval.
8. *Ongoing Business*
9. *New Business* –Annual Congregational Meeting June 25 final planning.
Pete opened the discussion with a slide presentation preview for Sunday’s meeting. Some agenda items include: approval of the 2022 meeting minutes; approval of the FY24 proposed budget; Pastor Sal’s letter; GPC FY23 grants awarded; campus refresh projects update; RH ministry update; security review; methods for giving; and, appreciation and affirmation. Additions/ corrections were made where necessary.

Discussion:

- a) What is the best practice in moving forward to fund the completed refresh projects (Phase I) as well as future projects (Phase II etc.)? Suggestion that a funding campaign not begin until the estimated costs of the remaining identified projects of Phase I are known. These requirements will also be necessary (identifying projects and cost estimates) for Phase II and future plans.
- b) Lively discussion of differing opinions shared regarding the current status of the SS house being included as an asset of the Isabel Graham Fund (IGF). Should the IGF be paid back the original monies used to purchase SS? No consensus was reached at this time. Further discussion was tabled until a later date.
Action: Pete and Stacy will meet and finalize the slide presentation for Sunday's meeting.

10. *Next Meeting Dates* – Congregational meeting June 25 at 11:30 am.
Council – July 18 at 6 pm.

11. *Adjournment* – 8:14 pm.

Motion: from Stacy. Stan second. Motion approved.