

APPROVED Church Council Minutes

November 17, 2020

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

Excused: Mary Fechtig, Marty Coffin

1. *Welcome & Introduction* – Pete Mueller
2. *Opening Prayer* – Pastor Sal opened with prayer at 6:00 pm.
3. *October 2020 Minutes* – Bev distributed the final draft prior to the meeting. Correction made to #7, 1st bullet, under Recommendations, b. should read, “Procedures describe how things are done.”
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:
 - National attention given to DUCC:
 - National UCC shared two featured stories that mentioned our church. The “Voter Shuttle” program that included photos and the video recording of “Our Faith, Our Vote” sermon, and DUCC’s efforts to address the contention following the election with quotes from the November 8th homily.
 - Pastor Sal appeared in the CBS-TV “Every Vote Counts” special that included “Vigil for Orlando” photos.
 - DUCC was honored at the UCC Grand West Association Fall Meeting when a short worship video from our church was shared. Pastor Sal will serve another year on the GWA Planning Committee and church member Dan Mack will serve as a member of the GWA Church and Ministry Committee.
 - Pastor Sal was selected to serve as one of the five delegates representing our Michigan Conference at the UCC National Synod in 2021 and 2023.
 - Weekly “Centering Prayer” group has over 20 people in attendance.
 - Stephen Ministry Training continues to meet 2 ½ hours each week.
 - Thank you to the congregation for the successful flour collection and fulfillment of the “Giving Tree Holiday Gift Requests” that benefits Christian Neighbors.
 - Homily (via Zoom) given at the UU Church of Detroit on October 25th.
 - Officiated a memorial service in Saugatuck on November 7th.
5. *Financial Report* – Gemina. Written report pending.
 - Income continues to be highly favorable and within budget.
6. *Trustee Report* – Marty via Pete.
 - Gas Company replaced Spring Street gas meter.
 - Marty will address campus leaves (raking and pick-up) when he returns.
7. *Committee/Group Updates* – Pete

- Grant Proposal Committee (GPC) requested council’s recommendations and wording for the addition of a LGBTQ non-discrimination question to the grant request application.
 - Discussion:
 - a) Grant recipients must be fully inclusive and welcoming of the LGBTQ community. Current grant application however only requires recipients be in agreement with being “open and affirming.” Wording needs to be more specific as to what defines “open and affirming.”
 - b) Suggestion to add to the application: “Are you fully supportive and affirming of the LGBTQ community?”
 - c) Concern: Would this language in the grant application be stronger than the wording in DUCC’s mission statement?
 - d) Should we re-examine our mission statement? Does it still encompass what DUCC stands for?
Action: Pastor Sal will work with Karen Clark (GPC) on the grant application wording to address the LGBTQ non-discrimination question.
Action: Council will re-visit DUCC’s mission statement at December’s council meeting. Any changes will be presented to the congregation at January’s Mid-Year Congregational Meeting.
 - Allegan County Foundation Scholarship: Congregant requested that GPC consider participating.
 - Discussion:
 - a) Scholarship program is modeled after “Michigan’s Futures for Frontliners.” Scholarships are being set up through Allegan County Foundation for essential industry training through colleges or trade schools.
 - b) DUCC’s GPC mission includes providing funds towards known receivers that meet certain requirements.
 - c) The Allegan County Foundation Scholarship Fund “sounds like good work but not our work.”
Motion from Stan that we not proceed with further consideration of providing funds to this Allegan County Foundation. Bev second. Motion approved.
8. *Ongoing Business* – Pete
- Covid-19 issues and planning. DUCC continues to follow SOM and UCC’s laws and guidelines with frequent updates to the congregation.
9. *New Business* – Pete/Pastor Sal
- Comcast wi-fi quotes for future consideration when we return to in-house.
 - Church \$190/month.
 - Spring Street \$150/month.
 - \$95 installation fee.
 - Amazon Smile:

- Amazon offers a simple way for shoppers to support a charitable organization of their choice with 0.5% of their purchase price going to that organization. DUCC is listed as one of the choices to choose from.
- Council approves providing this information to the congregation.
Action: Julie Ridl will post in the E-pistle the smile.amazon.com website with instructions and graphics for anyone interested in participating in the program.
- Christmas Eve Service:
 - DUCC will continue with the 135 year tradition of offering the “Lessons and Carols” program again this year but with limitations and necessary adjustments.
 - a) The Christmas Story will be told as usual in five readings. However, because the choir cannot practice, the music between the readings will be provided from prior years’ recordings.
 - b) The message will be new.
 - c) Congregants are being asked in the E-pistle to send to Julie Ridl a holiday photo of themselves to be used in a slide presentation that will be shown during Peter Black’s piano performance.

10. *Next Meeting Date:* December 15 @ 6pm.

11. *Adjournment* – 7:00 pm.

Motion: from David. Gemina second. Motion approved.