

APPROVED Church Council Minutes

October 19, 2021

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

Guest: Bob Kenny

1. *Welcome and Introduction:* Pete welcomed Bob, Social Justice Committee Facilitator.
2. *Opening Prayer:* Pastor Sal opened with prayer at 6:02 pm.
3. *September 2021 Meeting Minutes* – Bev distributed the final draft prior to the meeting.
Motion: from Jim to approve. David second. Motion approved.
Action: The minutes will be in the E-pistle and posted on the Friendship Hall bulletin board.
4. *Pastor's Report:* Pastor Sal distributed the report prior to the meeting.
Highlights:
 - a) Honored to speak at the 40th Anniversary celebration for Christian Neighbors Food Pantry in Douglas and share the story of the founding of Christian Neighbors by two women from DUCC.
 - b) On November 2nd DUCC's Creation Justice Team is leading a Community Book Read for the book, *End of Night*, by Paul Bogard.
 - c) On November 13th, Brother Al Mascia, former pastor of DUCC, will be giving a free concert at our church.
Action: The detailed report will be in the E-pistle and posted on the Friendship Hall bulletin board.
5. *Financial Report* – Stacy distributed the report prior to the meeting.
Observations:
 - a) Contributions remain strong and are over budget for the month and YTD.
 - b) Significant expenditures included \$5K for Crop Walk match; \$6K for Retreat House new furnace and air-conditioning system; \$1.7K for quarterly liability insurance.
 - c) We are still on track to stay within budget.
6. *Trustee Report-* Marty/Pastor Sal
 - a) Baumann & Degroot completed the installation of the new furnace and air-conditioning system at the Retreat House. Electrician completed the necessary electrical work for the new system.
 - b) Friendship Hall screen door was repaired.
 - c) Dick Bont and Marty completed the sprinkling system repairs.
 - d) Tree trimming in the Memorial Garden and the pines surrounding the church was completed.
 - e) Bud Baty and Chris Maitner are obtaining quotes for refinishing the church front doors.
 - f) Fall clean-up of the church campus was completed on October 16th.
 - g) A motion sensor light will be installed outside the Friendship Hall side door.

7. *Committee/Group Updates – Pete*

- a) Grant Proposal Committee (GPC) has an open position due to Dan Ryan's resignation.

Motion: from Jim to nominate Bev Hawkes to the position thereby giving Council a return to having a liaison on GPC. Stacy second. Motion approved.

- b) GPC grant requests:

- 1) 70 X 7 Life Recovery, a community based program that supports men and women as they re-enter society from jail or prison, requesting \$2,500.

Motion: from Stan to approve undesignated funding of \$2,500 to 70 X 7 Life Recovery. Jim second. Motion approved.

- 2) Interfaith Action of SW Michigan, comprised of over 40 interfaith and ecumenical organizations including both synagogues and one Islamic Association, is requesting \$1,250.

Motion: from Jim to approve undesignated funding of \$1,250 to Interfaith Action of SW Michigan. Stacy second. Motion approved.

- 3) Step-Up men's house, a program that provides housing, supportive services and life skills for youth that have aged out of the foster care system, requesting \$1,875 for furniture.

Motion: from Bev to approve \$1,875 for furniture with the check made out to Step-Up rather than Percy Williams (House Manager). David second. Motion approved.

Action: Pete will notify Karen Clark (GPC) of Council's decisions and clarify, that though two of the grant requests had specified that no DUCC funds go toward salaries, Council did vote that these funds be undesignated. This decision was based on three Council members past experiences with 501(c)(3) fund raising and the difficulties encountered in managing charities when funds are restricted. Council could not recall this restriction as being in our GPC structure as policy.

8. *Ongoing Business*

- a) Afghan Family Support Task Force update and request – Bob Kenny distributed the Afghan Task Force October 14th meeting minutes to Council prior to the meeting. 25 people attended the meeting and filled out an interest survey provided by Bethany Christian.

Questions for Council:

- 1) DUCC Afghan Task Force would like to become a Co-Sponsor with Bethany Christian Services of Grand Rapids in support of 1-2 Afghan Refugee Families and is asking Council to authorize the Task Force to complete the necessary requirements.
- 2) Would Council consider the use of 88 Spring St. for housing a refugee family through Bethany Christian Services until more permanent housing could be found? If not now, in the future?

Discussion:

- This is a great and important challenge. The level of service required to provide housing is more than DUCC has traditionally done.

- Would it be better for an Afghan family to be housed closer to other refugee families? Douglas could be too isolating and offers fewer services than a larger community.
- The Co-Sponsor role would be a better way to know the challenges before committing to 88 Spring St.
- Council doesn't need to make a housing decision at this time regarding the use of 88 Spring St., but does remain open to the idea for the future.
- Stan spoke of past experiences with this kind of work and the many rewards of helping refugees establish roots and their own networks.

Motion: from Stan that Council supports moving forward with the Co-Sponsorship concept and authorizes the Task Force to finalize what is required to become a Co-Sponsor. Stacy second. Motion approved.

Action: Bob will contact Katie Carpenter of Bethany Christian Services and arrange an Orientation session for the committed team (the next step in Bethany's process to become a Co-Sponsor for a refugee family). Bob will continue to explore the legal implications and responsibilities for personal vehicle use if providing transportation, possible background checks etc.

b) C-19 Vaccination booster station at DUCC – Pete

Council agrees that there is no need for a station at DUCC since vaccination boosters are readily available at pharmacies and other locations.

Action: Pete will notify Ruth VandenBosch of Council's decision.

9. *New Business* – Pete/Pastor Sal

a) Facility Plan B

Discussion:

- 1) There are numerous and necessary campus renovation issues that need to be addressed. It's been noted that wallpaper is peeling in the sanctuary, ceiling plaster is falling off in Pastor Sal's office, the Friendship Hall kitchen is inadequate etc.
- 2) Could the cash flow monies handle repairs and renovations?
- 3) DUCC continues to grow virtually. Should more funds be allocated towards this endeavor?

Action: Council will continue to explore and discuss at our next meeting Facility Plan B ideas. Marty will look at Pastor Sal's office ceiling and arrange repair.

10. *Next Meeting Date*- November 16 @ 6pm.

11. *Adjournment* – 7:28pm.

Motion: from Stacy. Stan second. Motion approved.