

# APPROVED Church Council Minutes

October 18, 2022

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Present: Pastor Sal Sapienza, Peter Mueller, Kelly Wright, Jim Kern, Stan Greene (Julie Ridl keeping minutes)

Excused: Beverly Hawkes, Stacy Honson, David Geen.

1. *Welcome and Introduction* – Pete called the meeting to order
2. *Opening Prayer* – Pastor Sal opened the meeting with prayer at 6:02 pm.
3. *September 2022 Meeting Minutes* – Bev distributed the final draft prior to the meeting.  
**Motion:** from Jim to approve the minutes. Stan seconded. 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 October report prior to the meeting.  
Highlights:
  - a) Pastor Sal represented our church at the Ecclesiastical Council for Rev. Keith Mannes, formerly of the East Saugatuck CRC, who has become a UCC pastor.
  - b) So much coverage in the local press! The Pet Blessing, Crop Walk Team, and Highway Cleanup events, articles posted in the Friendship Hall.  
**Action:** The detailed report will be in the E-pistle and posted on the Friendship Hall bulletin board.
5. *Financial Report* – Stacy Honson is currently traveling abroad and will share the Financial Report upon her return.
6. *Trustee Report* – Kelly
  - a. New weather stripping and miscellaneous fasteners were installed/replaced on the church's front doors. Kelly noted that the old church doors need to be carefully monitored and recommends refinishing work be scheduled for every 3-4 years.
  - b. The exhaust fan opening in the north kitchen wall was addressed. The outside cover is sealed with weather stripping and fastened shut, the wall opening is insulated with fiberglass batten and vapor barrier, and the inside is covered with a trim plate.
  - c. The church sprinkler system was drained and winterized for the season on Monday, October 17.
  - d. The preventative maintenance of the campus HVAC systems, including water heaters, has been scheduled for December 08, by Baumann & Degroot. Given the three buildings and all the units involved, this is expected to take most of the day.
  - e. Snow removal options are being explored. Council discussed offering Myron Bell the job of shoveling sidewalks for church services and other events as he can.  
**Motion:** Offer Myron \$50 per shoveling event, with Kelly training Myron on use of snowblowers. Motion made by Pastor Sal, seconded by Stan. Motion carried.

- f. Leaf & debris removal taking place around campus, especially at the back of the retreat house. Kelly does not see the need to plan a fall clean-up day. He asked Tino to keep up with the leaves & lawn debris. Kelly will remove and store garden hoses this weekend.
- g. Kelly asked about the white PVC fencing section along the west side of the church. The new sod makes the fence unnecessary. Pastor Sal noted that the fencing had been donated by David and Bill. We will check with them before discarding it.
- h. Kelly noted some error messages with the air purifiers. Discussion about the possible impact of the refinishing work. Kelly has been working with the suppliers and has them all working well at the moment, and will monitor.
- i. Kelly discussed painting and drapery with Bud Baty. Bud will discuss it with other members of the committee.
- j. Jim spoke with Laurie VandenBeldt about the need to pare down the amount of equipment in the kitchen. Kelly reported the same thoughts from Joyce Wright, our new coffee hour coordinator. Pastor Sal proposed asking for Laurie and Joyce to review extraneous equipment and decide what can be donated or discarded. Council agreed.

#### 7. *Ongoing Business*

- a. Covid 19 Issues & Planning: Peter asked Pastor Sal and Julie about our rising in-person and online attendance, wondering if there is currently a need to accommodate the additional headcount. After discussion, no changes to services are recommended at this time. Jim asked about our online visitors – what details we may know about them. Pastor Sal will plan to share the YouTube statistics with Council.
- b. Guest family housing update: Peter gave an update on our Afghan guests' search for housing. There are very strong possibilities in hand and the likelihood of a signed lease in the near future. Stay tuned!
- c. Brainstorming Session Update: Council shared recent discussions with Jeff Spangler and another contractor in the area about our opportunities for developing the Spring Street property. Council would like to hold a meeting to review and discover current needs and requirements for the campus, which have changed since the C-19 pandemic. Peter will look for dates that accommodate council travel plans. The goal is to have a Spring Street plan shaped enough to share with the membership at the January meeting.
- d. Council terms: Peter shared the list of council members' terms drawing to a close. Peter and Pastor Sal shared conversations with church members who are interested in council service. Jim and Julie made plans to train Julie in QB reporting of donations. Peter asked council members to report any further interest

expressed by church members for council service. He hopes to have a slate of candidates prepared soon.

8. *New Business*

9. *Next Meeting Date* – November 15 @6 pm.

10. *Adjournment* – 7:40 pm.

**Motion:** from Kelly. Jim second. Motion approved.