

# APPROVED Church Council Minutes

September 15, 2020

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

Absent: Mary Fechtig, Marty Coffin

1. *Welcome* – Pete Mueller
2. *Opening Prayer* – Pastor Sal opened with prayer at 6:05 pm.
3. *August 2020 Minutes* – Bev distributed final draft prior to meeting.  
**Motion:** from Stan to approve. Pastor Sal second. Motion approved.  
**Action:** Julie Ridl will post in the E-pistle.
4. *Pastor’s Report* – Pastor Sal distributed prior to meeting. SEE ATTACHED.  
Highlights:
  - DUCC continues to thrive. The viewership for our Sunday worship videos continues to grow as well as the number of subscribers to our channel.
  - The Creation Justice Team will provide opening remarks and prayers during worship for the month of September to commemorate Creation Season.
  - Current Stephen Ministers continue to meet for monthly supervision. A new group of 4 Stephen Ministers will begin their 50 hours of training this week.
  - Officiated:
    - August 22<sup>nd</sup> - small wedding in the church for a couple from Jenison, MI.
    - August 29<sup>th</sup> - memorial service in Saugatuck for Jim Lemons.
    - September 13<sup>th</sup> - blessing offered at the opening of Isabel’s Market and Eatery in Douglas, owned by 4 of our church members.
    - September 19<sup>th</sup> - will be offering a blessing at the opening of the “Celebration Pride Garden” in Douglas in recognition of 2 church members.
    - October 4<sup>th</sup> – will lead a “Blessing of the Animals” service in Douglas.
  - Attended Boundary Training on August 24<sup>th</sup> (Michigan Conference requirement for pastors every 5 years) where new information was shared regarding the establishment of boundaries during Covid-19 and zoom meetings.  
**Action:** Julie Ridl will post in the E-pistle.
5. *Financial Report* – Gemina
  - Current income is meeting expenses.
  - Mike Boston’s monthly report is pending.
6. *Trustee Report*
  - David is placing fall mums on the street corner by the church’s front entrance and by the church doors.
  - Concerns raised regarding weeding not being done at church or retreat house.Discussion:
  - Prior to Covid-19 restrictions church members participated in announced

“church grounds cleanup.”

- o Currently there is a lack of coordination between different ground maintenance vendors.
- o Suggested that in the future all ground maintenance vendors should go through Marty for coordination and scheduling.

**Action:** Pastor Sal will check with Larry Fuerst to clarify past grounds keeping procedures. Gemina will share these findings and current vendor information with Marty.

#### 7. *Committee/Group Updates – Pete*

- Grant Proposal Committee (GPC) vetted and approved a one-time request for a \$2500 grant to 70 X 7 Life Recovery. This community based program supports men and women as they re-enter society from jail or prison.

**Motion:** from Bev to approve a one-time \$2500 grant to 70 X 7 Life Recovery. Gemina second. Motion approved.

- o Discussion and questions:

- What is the GPC vetting process?
- Does the current Grant Proposal Application Form require adequate information for the vetting process?

**Action:** Pete will discuss with Karen Clark (GPC) the vetting concept and review the grant request application form.

#### 8. *Ongoing Business*

- Walking Labyrinth – Pastor Sal shared that there are many designs and purchase/installation options i.e.:

- o Design with stones that interested parties could purchase/donate.
- o Buy all needed supplies as a “do-it-yourself” package (expensive).

**Action:** Stan will contact a friend at a Petoskey church regarding their labyrinth installation.

- Brainstorming follow-up - Pete

- o Facilities Plan/Capital Campaign:

Discussion: Pete attended the UCC Webinar, “A Capital Campaign in Covid-19?”

- Other UCC churches do have ongoing capital campaigns during the pandemic. Best practice does allow for resuming a capital campaign at this time.
- Review of 80/20 rule (20% of donors give 80% of the targeted monies and 80% of donors provide the remaining 20%).
- Two financial scenarios:
  - a) Full plan as presented to the congregation costing \$3,074,500.
  - b) Modified plan costing \$1,848,000 which includes building the two story building with the top floor and Pastor Sal’s office finished, but doesn’t include pulling back the church altar wall and Friendship Hall changes.
- Questions: Would the modified plan be more palatable to the congregation? Is targeting with the original numbers too

aggressive?

**Action:** Pete will email council members detailed slides of both financial scenarios to enhance further discussion.

o Digital Presence:

- DUCC’s digital space is far ahead of other Grand West Association churches and continues to grow. What does this expansion outside our walls mean?

Discussion:

- a) Viewers are getting more in touch with what’s important during these troubling times by searching inward, finding and responding to our message.
- b) Viewers are giving financially. Some have communicated they consider DUCC their virtual church.

**Action:** Continue working with Meraki and explore the possibility of additional virtual space opportunities.

9. *New Business*

- 32 pews offered free from Ada church – Pastor Sal

o Storage space for the pews is not available.

**Motion:** from Stan to decline the offer and express gratitude for the consideration. David second. Motion approved.

- UCC special collections – Will Gervais via Pastor Sal.

The 4 UCC specific Sunday special collections (“Greater Hour of Sharing” – Lent; “Neighbors in Need” – first Sunday in October; “Strengthen Our Church” – Pentecost Sunday; “Christmas fund” – Sunday before Christmas) have fallen by the wayside during the pandemic and subsequent no in-house church services.

Discussion:

o Will asked council if a 150% match rather than the usual 100% match could be considered since lower revenues are anticipated for these special collections.

o Will suggested that Pastor Sal announce special collection during on-line services and post in the E-pistle.

o Is it possible to set up a special collection designation through Vanco?

o Noted that for on-line donations there is an option to designate a specific fund.

o Donors using mail-in option will be asked to write “special collection” in memo line.

**Motion:** from Stan that after exploring all current giving options, the 4 UCC special collections resume in October with a 100% match. Gemina second. Motion approved.

**Action:** Pastor Sal and Gemina will explore and clarify giving options including Vanco, mail-in and online.

- Voter shuttle email address request – Stan

Stan has initiated a shuttle service for voters who prefer to personally drop off their absentee ballots to designated clerks or drop boxes rather than through the mail.

There are 12 volunteer drivers to cover Holland, Saugatuck/Douglas,

Fennville and South Haven areas.

- o Stan developed logistics that include daily rosters and specific rules and guidelines for drivers that encompass: Covid -19 precautions (masks, vehicle windows open if weather permits, hand sanitizer, only 1 voter and 1 family member at a time) and voting principle instruction (only the voter can touch ballot, ballot is taken to address on the envelope, no conversations regarding candidates nor ballot issues are permitted).
- o Stan is requesting that a DUCC email address that would forward to him shuttle service requests be approved.

Noted by Pastor Sal that UCC's, "Our Faith, Our Vote, Our Voice 2020" does encourage congregational election engagement. IRS rules however prohibit churches from expressing its support for or opposition to any candidate and noted that Stan's guidelines for the shuttle service are in compliant with these restrictions.

**Motion:** from Pastor Sal to establish [votershuttle@douglasUCC.org](mailto:votershuttle@douglasUCC.org) that would forward email requests to Stan. Gemina second. Motion approved.

**Action:** Pastor Sal will contact Nuri at Meraki to set up the email address. Stan will contact Julie Ridl to announce the shuttle service in the E-pistle and to the public via the usual avenues.

10. *Next Meeting Date:* October 20 @ 6pm.

11. *Adjournment* – 7:35 pm.

**Motion:** from Gemina. David second. Motion approved.