

# ● Church Council Minutes

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April 16, 2019

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Present: Pastor Sal, Peter Mueller, Karen Clark, Sue Fleming, Mike Boston, Larry Fuerst, Mary Fechtig (remote)

1. Opening Prayer – Pastor Sal opened the meeting with a prayer at 6:00 pm.
2. Welcome/Introduction – No guests were present.
3. March 2019 Council Minutes – Sue moved approval of the minutes. Larry second. Minutes from the March 19, 2019 Council meeting were approved.
4. Pastor’s Report – Pastor Sal distributed his report before the meeting. Highlights included the following.
  - a. New website - Pastor acknowledged the work of Mary Fechtig’s and Elizabeth Estes’ company, Meraki Social, in updating the church website. Mary added that the team has enjoyed working with Pastor Sal. The site will be unveiled the week of April 28. We have a branded Douglas UCC YouTube channel and a Douglas UCC Twitter account.
  - b. New Sound System - Mike asked a few questions about the new sound system. On Sunday April 7 a person from Media Technology Systems came to the service to train Gregg Smith. 8 people have signed up to be trained at some point after Easter. The update has been a great investment.
  - c. Mikah Meyer Visit – Mikah Meyer is on his way to breaking a World Record by visiting 419 national parks and sharing the story of his journey and his being a gay Christian. He will be singing the Offertory song and delivering the Sunday message on Sunday May 5. Jenna Bush Hager has interviewed him on the Today show.
5. Financial Report – Mike Boston distributed a full report prior to the meeting. Mike highlighted the following.
  - a. One Great Hour of Sharing - The past month has been fairly routine. The One Great Hour of Sharing check has been sent to the UCC.
  - b. Monthly and Quarterly Income - Monthly income for the month was favorable by \$6. Quarterly income from the January through March collections was a bit low, but April is high. More people are donating using an IRA option, which results in one large donation rather than donating the same amount over the year.
  - c. Year to date – March total income is favorable to budget by 15%.
  - d. Expenses – Expenses for the month were also favorable by 15%. The new sound system expense was paid in April.
  - e. Cash on hand – At the end of March our cash on hand was \$20,790.
  - f. Mission checks will be presented with photos taken to Ladders for Hope and to Art~Horses~Art in Fennville. Pastor Sal will contact John Kerr to make arrangements for photos.

- g. Mike will follow-up with Andy DeBraber via email to determine where our DUCC check should be mailed for the UCC *Shaping our Future* campaign.
  - h. Karen will contact Chuck Pappalardo regarding his inquiry about a grant application for Book Trust.
  - i. Mike will resend the quarterly financial report for Council to review prior to posting it in the Friendship Hall.
  - j. Mike distributed graphs showing trends for attendance and collections through April. Graphs show an increase in April collections and the attendance graph also shows an upward trend.
6. Investment Advisory Committee – The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday April 17.
7. Facilities Committee Update –
- a. Mary reported that the architectural firm would create a church plan and then ask small groups of congregants for feedback.
  - b. It was asked if a smaller group might drive this process. The committee currently has 8 members who have been meeting every other week. Some may wish to step down.
  - c. Mary indicated that structuring the small groups would be important. A small group consisting of 2 current Facilities Committee members and 2 people from Council might be appropriate. Council will continue to discuss this.
  - d. The hope is that over the course of the next 60 days, the first phase of a plan will be developed by Studio 2/Mayotte and then focus groups will be formed.
  - e. Studio 2/ Mayotte will review the process at the next Facilities Committee meeting.
8. Trustees Report/Issues – Larry reported on the following.
- a. An all church clean up will take place on 4/27. May 4<sup>th</sup> will be the rain date if the weather is bad. So far 12 people have signed up to help.
  - b. Larry reported that the floor is soft at the entry to the Friendship Hall. Larry and Alan Weathers will take a closer look at it.
  - c. The UCC flag blew away so the donated Unity Flag is now hanging in its place.
  - d. Larry will meet with someone about taking care of the church lawn.
  - e. Larry will also contact the irrigation company about the sprinklers.
  - f. Twenty-seven people signed up for AED classes on 6/15 and on 6/22. Larry will get an announcement with specifics in the church bulletin.
9. Committee/Group Updates - none
10. On-going business –
- a. UCC General Synod – The full schedule for the Synod has yet to be posted. We will have until 6/1 to register and will hopefully send 3 people.
  - b. Lilly Endowment – A grant application has been submitted for funding to cover expenses related to Pastor Sal’s sabbatical in 2020. Council

acknowledged the work of Greg Plowe. Someone will contact Greg and request the final version.

11. New Business –

- a. Vacant Council positions - Pete reviewed the term status of each Council member. A few congregants have inquired about the positions of Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Trustee. Pete will follow up with them.
- b. Sabbatical – Pastor Sal shared some suggestions from the West Michigan Association about how to cover church services when he is on sabbatical. Council liked the suggestion of thinking of the 12 weeks of the sabbatical as a time when 12 congregants might share their stories. Further information about the sabbatical will be shared with the congregation.
- c. Next year’s budget – Mike will try to have the first draft of next year’s budget ready for the next Council meeting on May 13.
- d. Council thanked Pete Mueller for his willingness to step in as Council Moderator. Council acknowledged Mike Boston’s work recording online giving during Will Gervais’ absence.

12. Next Meeting Dates –

- a. May 13 at 6pm
- b. June 11 at 6pm
- c. June 16 – Annual Meeting following worship service.

13. Adjournment – Pastor Sal left the meeting at 7:40 pm. The Council continued to meet to discuss Pastor’s Sal’s salary. A recommendation was made for next year’s salary and approved. Pete will work on a contract and worksheet to present and discuss with Pastor Sal. Mike also shared some budget planning information on fixed expenses and gross discretionary expenses for 2020. This part of the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.