

# Church Council Minutes

December 17, 2019

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Present: Pastor Sal, Peter Mueller, Gemina Petruzelli, Beverly Hawkes, David Geen

Absent: Larry Fuerst, Sue Fleming, Mary Fechtig

Guest: Julie Ridl

1. Opening Prayer – Pastor Sal opened with prayer at 6:10 pm.
2. Welcome and Introduction – Pete
  - Julie Ridl welcomed and invited to attend future council meetings in her new role as Administrative Assistant.
3. November 2019 Council Minutes – Bev distributed draft prior to meeting with noted corrections.  
**Motion:** from David to approve. Pastor Sal second. Motion approved.
4. Pastor's Report – Pastor Sal distributed prior to meeting. SEE ATTACHED.

In Addition:

- Stephen Ministry Orientation Night scheduled for January 9<sup>th</sup>. In an effort to increase the number of trained Stephen Ministers, the meeting will include not only the 3 congregants who have signed up for the training but will also be opened to other interested persons.
  - Julie Ridl's Administrative Assistant training has been going well for the past 2 weeks. Julie compiled last week's E-pistle and bulletin.
  - Copies of the updated Church's Constitution are now available in the Friendship Hall as required at least 2 weeks prior to the Mid-Year Congregational Meeting on January 5, 2020. (pdf copies are available upon request).
  - Pancake Breakfast will again be hosted by John Willming (per his request) on February 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Friendship Hall. There will be no Potluck on February 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - There will be no collection plates passed at the Christmas Eve service again this year however, 2 church members will be standing at the doors with plates for those attendees who wish to give.
  - The UCC Christmas Fund that provides assistance to UCC Clergy and lay employees will be collected at the December 22<sup>nd</sup> service.
5. Financial Report – Gemina distributed November's Profit and Loss Statement. SEE ATTACHED.
    - Financial narrative report is forthcoming from Mike Boston.
    - Social Justice Committee asked if Spring St. facility could provide Wi-Fi access for video presentations. Hot Spot usage doesn't always offer uninterrupted viewing.  
**Action:** Gemina will explore Comcast's Wi-Fi costs for entire church campus.
  6. Financial Oversight Committee Report (FOC) – No updates reported.
  7. Trustee Report – Pete/Pastor Sal

- Marty Coffin continues to consider the Trustee position effective January 1, 2020. Confirmation needed prior to January 5<sup>th</sup> Mid-Year Congregational Meeting.  
**Action:** Pete will follow up with Marty regarding his decision to accept/decline the Trustee position.
  - Discussion of an assistant to the Trustee.  
**Action:** Pete will follow up with a potential interested person.
  - Broken pew replacement. Possibility of additional pews located in church basement.  
**Action:** Julie will investigate further.
  - Pastor Sal has purchased a gift for Larry in recognition of his years of service as Trustee to be presented at January 5<sup>th</sup> Mid-Year Congregational Meeting. The Facilities Team will also be recognized.
8. Committee/Group Updates – Pete
- *Grant Proposal Committee* – Grant applications distributed prior to meeting.
    - a) Ladders of Hope Food Pantry - \$2500 (3<sup>rd</sup> and final installment to pay for new electrical generator, for a total grant of \$7500).  
Discussion: Council reminded of the background and financial need as expressed in original grant request.
    - b) Kids Food Basket - \$2500 (1<sup>st</sup> annual installment over three years to help feed children in Allegan County, for a total grant of \$7500).  
Discussion: Concern expressed about 3 year financial commitment rather than an annual grant request in consideration of DUCC’s future obligations.
    - c) ESCAPE Ministries - \$2500 (Request to purchase 6 new laptops for their ASAP program [Alternative Suspension Accountability Program] for use by children that have been expelled from school. Service is provided in Allegan County and includes support for Outlook Academy and Hamilton school children).  
Discussion: Questions regarding ESCAPE Ministries acceptance of DUCC’s progressive positions. More background (vetting) information needed.  
**Motion:** from Bev to approve final \$2500 grant to Ladders of Hope Food Pantry; approve a one-time \$2500 grant to Kids Food Basket; defer ESCAPE Ministries grant request until more information is available. Gemina second. Motion approved.  
**Action:** Pete will follow-up with Sue Fleming (Grant Proposal Committee) for more information on ESCAPE Ministries.
9. Ongoing business
- *Pastor Sal’s Sabbatical Planning*
    - a) Everything is in place. 12 speakers, 40 volunteers are scheduled with assigned tasks. Training session to be held this Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup>.
    - b) Charts with assigned duty coverage will be displayed in Friendship Hall.
  - *Live-streaming of Mid-Year Congregational Meeting* for absent church members.  
**Action:** Julie will explore feasibility of live-streaming January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - *Lead Gift Capital Campaign* – Pete

- a) Pete met with Mayotte/S2 architects and potential contractors to explore the financial considerations of construction being completed in phases as a contingency plan.
- b) Financial feasibility study considerations:
  - 1) Mary per Pete – Facilities Committee mandate was to solve the need for additional church campus expansion which has been completed. Financial considerations for construction are outside of this original mandate.  
**Action:** Pete and Mary will review the mandate.
  - 2) Approaching the lead donors will continue.
- *Mid-Year Congregational Meeting – Pete*
  - a) New constitution will be reviewed and voted on (as stated above, copies are available in Friendship Hall).
  - b) Background information will be given to congregants regarding the proposed church construction project to date.
  - c) Additional slides are being prepared for the ppt deck project presentation. These include the 3 phase site drawings and related construction costs.
  - d) A poster of the proposed construction plans will be made available in the Friendship Hall.  
**Action:** Pete and Julie will prepare the additional slides. Julie will create the construction plan poster.

10. New Business

- *Community Resource Officer Proposal*
  - a) Volunteer position to meet church member needs outside of the scope of Stephen Ministers, Congregational Care members or the Pastor.
  - b) The person occupying this position will be equipped to provide information, contact options, and referrals for church members needing mental health, physical health, or other human services assistance.
  - c) The Coordinator’s activities will be under the supervision of the Pastor and be covered under the church’s liability insurance.
  - d) Candidate for the position is Louise Kenny.  
**Motion:** from Bev to approve the position and approve Louise Kenny as the Community Resource Officer. David second. Motion approved.  
**Action:** Pastor Sal will make announcement to church.

11. Next meeting date

- Mid-Year Congregational Meeting – January 5, 2020 @ 11:30 am
- January 21, 2020 @ 6 pm.

12. Adjournment – 7:45 pm.

**Motion:** from Pastor Sal. David second. Motion approved.