

June 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

Attendance: 36 members attended in-person and 12 members attended via Zoom – a quorum was established. Annual Report Packets were distributed to those present and are available upon request for members not present.

Call to order – Moderator Pete Mueller called the meeting to order at 11:30am.

Opening Prayer – Pastor Sal opened the meeting with a prayer.

Welcome – Pete Mueller welcomed congregants noting with pleasure our ability to again hold the Annual Congregational Meeting in-person after more than a year of Covid-19 restrictions.

Updates:

- Pete welcomed the 17 new members since our last Annual Congregational Meeting.
- Name tags for Church Council members will now be a soon to be selected color. This will enable easier recognition of members of Council to address questions.
- The Capital Campaign is on hold until the January 2022 Mid-Year Congregational Meeting. Council will continue to address strategies and designs between now and then.
- The Financial Oversight Committee (FOC) quarterly meetings will resume once the Treasurer and Financial Secretary are in place.

Minutes – Bev Hawkes – June 2020 meeting minutes have been posted in the E-pistle for the past 2 weeks for review and are included in the Annual Report Packet. Bob Kenny **moved to approve**. Mike Mok second. Minutes were approved.

Pastor's Letter is included in the Annual Report Packet – Pastor Sal.

Highlights:

- Pastor Sal expressed gratitude for the flexibility, patience, resiliency, support and encouragement these past 16 months as we figured out a new way of “being the church.”
- Church groups and committees continued to meet each week via Zoom while our weekly online worship services reached people all over the world. Our YouTube channel has over 3,000 subscribers and our online videos received more than 300,000 views.
- Pastor Sal thanked the DUCC family for their continual financial support and generously noting “we couldn’t have done this without you.” “The Presence and Power of God is with us and within us.” I am “honored and grateful to continue to serve as your pastor.”

Committees – Karen Clark – Grant Proposal Committee (GPC). Karen thanked committee members for their time and expertise. The grant application process was briefly reviewed noting that if GPC’s vetting results in a positive review, the request is sent to Council who then gives the final approval. Also noted was that the guidelines and application itself continue to be reviewed. *Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Grants Awarded via the Isabel Graham Fund* (included in the Annual Report packet):

- Funds to New Organizations:
 1. 70X7 Life Recovery
 2. Southwest Michigan Interfaith Action

3. Saugatuck Douglas Fennville Arts Initiative
4. Household Hazardous Waste Day
5. Hudsonville UCC
6. Lighthouse Immigration Advocates
- Funds to Organizations that Received Funding in the Past:
 1. Resilience: Advocates for Ending Violence
 2. Sylvia's Place
- Ongoing Support Awarded:
 1. Christian Neighbors
 2. CROP Hunger Walk

Proposed Budget – Mike Boston - Financial Oversight Committee (FOC) via Zoom. A detailed report is in the Annual Report Packet. An overview was given via a slide presentation.

- FY 2022 Budget Major Assumptions:
 1. Increase (30.3%) in collections in FY2021 vs FY2020 but FY2022 budget assumes the level of collections will flatten and remain reasonably close to FY2021.
 2. Mission spending has increased in FY2022 primarily due to operating cash surpluses.
 3. Repair and Maintenance costs are budgeted to increase due to additional equipment needed to open the church safely and issues that came out of the inspection reports.
 4. There will be significant increases in housekeeping, worship and G&A costs due to reopening services in FY2022 as well as an increase in utilities mainly due to Wi-Fi installation.
- FY2021 Budget, FY Estimated Results and FY2022 Budget (summary).
- FY 2022 Budget, FY2021 Estimated Actual and FY2022 Budget (detailed).

In Addition: Mike Boston explained the Cornerstone Fund's Ladder Investment Strategy approved by Council that addresses a plan for dealing with the growing Cash Reserve Fund.

There were no questions. Chris Clark **moved to approve** FY2022 Budget. Carol Brown second. Motion approved.

Updates

- *Committees* – Pastor Sal thanked all those that serve with a reminder that committee members are volunteers. Congregants interested in serving were encouraged to let us know and that instructions for signing up are available at DUCC's website and in the E-pistle.
 1. Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) – provides consistent support for the Pastor as well as communication between the Pastor and the congregation.
 2. Grant Proposal Committee (GPC) – Receives and reviews requests for grant funding.
 3. Financial Oversight Committee (FOC) – manages the Isabel Graham (IG) Fund. Completed in 2021 the Financial Policy and Procedure Manual.
 4. Building Committee – created this year to oversee campus properties. ABI building inspections of the church building, Retreat House, and Spring St. were

completed in May and facilitated by this committee.

5. Church Council – serves as the executive body of the church.
- *Spiritually Active Groups* – Pastor Sal offered a brief history of the development of these still active groups from the “New Beginnings” initiative implemented several years ago noting that a “New Beginnings” poster, created by congregant Jane Brodt still hangs in the church’s front entrance.
 1. Christian Neighbors – Congregants Ruth VandenBosch (Christian Neighbors facilitator) and Wendy Hamlin continue to volunteer their services there. Ongoing financial support is awarded from the GPC as well as congregation participation in Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets.
 2. Stephen Ministries – Facilitators Paul Burdick and Laurie VandenBeldt continued throughout the pandemic to meet weekly with Stephen Ministers as well as provided with Pastor Sal the 50 hours of required training to a new group of ministers. Trained ministers continued to meet with care receivers via phone and zoom.
 3. Social Justice – Facilitator Bob Kenny presented UCC’s six week “White Privilege” curriculum via zoom. Participation with Southwest Michigan’s Interfaith Action Collaborative continued throughout the pandemic.
 4. Creation Justice – Facilitator Eric Lejeune stepped up to fill the vacancy left when Sarah Swift moved. Beach and highway cleanups were not permitted this spring due to the pandemic and road construction. There are future plans for a “Rain Garden” by the Retreat House.
 5. Congregational Care – Facilitator Lynn Snyder continues to coordinate volunteers to provide care such as meals, rides etc. to congregants in need.
 6. Growing Together Spiritually – Pastor Sal led Centering Prayer groups during both Advent and Lent via zoom. Congregants were encouraged to participate in the “World Day of Prayer” and in June we were privileged to have a private Zoom event with Dr. Bernie Siegel.
 - *Social Groups* continued to meet throughout the pandemic via Zoom. Pastor Sal reminded us that all are welcomed and encouraged to join in.
 1. True North women’s group
 2. Spring St. men’s group
 3. Mahjongg
 4. Knitting Knights
 5. Lakeshore Community Chorus
 6. AA
 7. West Shore Aware
 - *Methods of Giving* - Julie Ridl thanked members Mary Fechtig and Elizabeth Estes for the services their company Meraki provides DUCC.
Update that Retreat House guests can now pay online.
A brief review of ways to give (also available at DUCC’s website) included:
 1. Online giving
 2. Text-to-give
 3. Planned giving
 4. Facebook pay

5. Give+app
6. Talent donation

Appreciation and Affirmation – Pastor Sal

- Thank you gifts were presented to:
 1. Mike Boston, Will Gervais, and Bob Kenny for serving on the Financial Oversight Committee.
 2. Gemina Petruzelli for serving on Council as Treasurer and to Mary Fechtig for serving five years as Financial Secretary.
 3. Kathleen Mueller for serving on the Pastoral Relations Committee. Noted that Kathleen will continue to serve as Retreat House Coordinator.
- Welcomed new Council members Stacy Honson as Treasurer and Jim Kern as Financial Secretary.
- Thanked Bev Hawkes for remaining on Council as Recording Secretary and David Geen for remaining as At-Large member for second two year terms.

Questions/Comments - Pete

- Question regarding Wi-Fi installation: Comcast is expected to install Wi-Fi in the church building in the next few weeks. This will complete the campus Wi-Fi access.
- Question regarding the building expansion plan and Capital Campaign: Pete gave a brief background of the plan that was presented and discussed at the Mid-year Congregational Meeting in January 2020. Council will be reviewing the overall plan including strategies and designs over the next six months with the goal of presenting them at the January 2022 Mid-year Congregational Meeting.

Adjournment at 12:15pm. Pam Chappell **moved to adjourn**. Dennis Konarski second. Motion approved.