

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Minutes of the Board
April 23, 2024

Moderator Susan Kelts called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Those present were Patti Arneson, Eileen Rossow, Carol Boyles, Erin Erickson, Mary Haan, Dave Ledford, Cindy Ledford, Becky Fisher, Randy Fisher, Alicia Sutliff-Benusis, Sue Maynard, Robin Franson, Sharon Darrow, Barb Knight, Jane Glover, and Sheila Long

Erin Erickson gave devotions, reading a poem called "My Mother Kept a Garden."

Sign-up sheet for money counters was passed around.

Meeting minutes were approved for February and March with a motion from Patti, seconded by Sue Maynard.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- Building and Grounds
 - Dave presented information on Fire Suppression. It has been recommended to do a 'wet system' versus a dry system for our building. The wet system is also less expensive than the dry system. The department has three bids. With all the prep work and post work that may need to be done, the department is asking for \$85,000 to be approved for the project to be completed this summer. Motion to approve up to \$85,000 to complete phases 1, 2 and 3 that will include the classrooms, administration and the basement was made by Barb Knight and seconded by Carol Boyles. A discussion was held. There is \$58,381 in the Fire Suppression fund and the trust is giving \$25,000. A motion to amend the amount up to \$100,000.00 was made by Eileen Rossow and seconded by Dave Ledford. This amended motion was passed.
- Stewardship and Budget
 - Barb Knight gave the treasurer's report. Income is up by \$29,189 and expenses are up by \$9,495. Note: the insurance for the church has been paid in full for the year.
- Education
 - Jane reported that Kaylee Kruse has resigned from the department. The department has asked Sue Maynard to join. Work is being done on Vacation Bible School scheduled for June 10-12. A Sunday School Open House is scheduled on Sunday April 28. The Placerville family day is June 19 and an end of Sunday School Year celebration will be held there. Discussion was held on summer nursery care. Mary Haan will check in with Lynn Grauman to see if she is interested in continuing to provide care, or the department will look for volunteers.
- Hospitality
 - Carol Boyles reports they are planning a celebration for Erin Erickson's ordination on April 28 to include appetizers brought by the congregation and cake. For Mother's Day, the department will provide muffins and will look at having 4th of July celebration/picnic.
- Ministries
 - Cindy Ledford reported they have a Cornerstone Rescue Mission meal on May 31. She offered a thank you for the generous donations made to the special offering for Church Response.
- Worship

- Alicia Sutliff-Benusis reported that the department is wondering if there is a way to put the new picture directory on the website and have the password protected. Ryan Webster will have a QR code with the link to online donations in the bulletin this week and other ideas for sharing the QR code are being considered.
- Congregational Representatives
 - No report
- Pastor Erin
 - A new members class was held, and they will be joining the church on May 19. There are people already asking when the next new members class will be held. Erin is looking at the fall as a possible option for the next class.
 - There will be songs and presentation from *Godspell* performed by the Seraphim theater group during Erin's ordination celebration.

OLD BUSINESS

- Empower Ed Update and discussion:
This is a school of about 25 kids aged 5 to 15 currently. They are looking for a place to relocate their school and are interested in renting our church. They would use four rooms and the outdoor space.
 - Robin Franson and Sharon Darrow shared about their visit to the school. They had an opportunity to see the kids in class and visit with teachers. They felt it went well but did share that there could be concerns about our current uses of the rooms and their need for storage and space.
 - Sue Kelts requested that a decision be made tonight. The floor was open for discussion. Many people shared their support and/or concerns about the school. A question was raised regarding the need for this to be brought to full congregational vote. It was stated it was not required by current policy but could be suggested to do so. Alicia Sutliff-Benusis motioned to bring the decision to allow the Empower Ed School to relocate to our church to the congregation for a vote. This was seconded by Jane Glover. A secret ballot was held. If the motion did not pass, the invitation to the school would be tabled. The vote came back as a tie with six yes votes and six no votes. Moderator, Sue Kelts broke the tie with a 'no' vote. The Empower Ed School will not be invited to relocate to our church for their school.
- Ring System was tabled until next month.
- Motion to adjourn by Sheila, 2nd by Patti.

The next board meeting will be May 21, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Eileen will give devotion.

Respectfully submitted.

Sheila Long

Clerk