

First Congregational United Church of Christ

Minutes of the Board

March 19, 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, Randy Daughenbaugh, Sue Maynard, Dawn Erk, Robin Franson, Sharon Darrow and Sheila Long

Patti Arneson gave a devotion about living with cancer and calling on angels.

Sign-up sheet for money counters was passed around.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- Building and Grounds
 - Dave Ledford reported that there was a window broken, including stained glass part. Mostly likely from kids throwing rocks.
 - Randy reported that the city council approved the property right of way, and that our current land is divided into different plats and made a motion to have the lot lines adjusted and consolidation of the plats. Second by Eileen Rossow. Motion approved. Sue Kelts will sign the paperwork.
- Stewardship and Budget
 - There is a UCC state conference check that has not been cashed. This check will be cancelled at this time.
 - The department is one person short since Scott Shuft moved.
 - There was a \$4000.00 increase in the building insurance for this year. The department is going to check with other companies for price comparisons.
 - Current expenses are down, and pledges are up.
- Education
 - Dawn reported that children will be walking in with palms on Palm Sunday. The teens and tweens are doing a pancake dinner before the Maundy Thursday service as well as a fundraiser for Placerville camp during April 14th coffee hour. The little children will be singing on Mother's Day. Placerville family day is May 19, 2024, and the adult forum in May will be on fraud and scams.
- Hospitality
 - Carol Boyles reports that they will have treat for Easter and will work with Christian Education on a May gathering/celebration Sunday. They continue to look at doing a family game night on Sunday evening to start in April or May.
- Ministries
 - Cindy Ledford reported they served 130 people at Woyaton and will be serving the Mission meal on March 29, 2024. The director for Church Response will be coming to speak on April 7th and then a special offering will be collected on April 14th.
- Worship
 - They are working on the Easter week services to include Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. There is a community Easter sunrise service and there will be a baptism in May.
- Congregational Representatives
 - Becky Fisher stated there was a request to have more time for children in Sunday school. Erin will look at the order of service and see if there is an earlier time to excuse them from service.
 - There is a request to have access to the board meeting minutes. People were reminded that they are available on the church website, and then decided they can be printed, and copies put in the narthex.
 - The statement on the website "BYOB" is not liked by a few in the congregation. The board decided to change it to say "Bring Your Own Belief (BYOB)"

- Pastor Erin
 - Erin received word that her call is ordainable, and discussion was held on what Sunday she will be ordained. They are looking at April 28, 2024. There will be a celebration to follow. Hospitality will help with that celebration.
 - The Paschal candle was broken, so we are looking to replace it. The plastic candle with oil is around \$400, so they are looking at the wax candle version that is cheaper but needs a new candle every year. Altar Guild will cover the purchase of the candle.
 - The new members class is planned for April 14th and there are 18 people interested in attending.
 - Erin is looking to set up a women's and men's softball league. Please reach out if you are interested in playing.

OLD BUSINESS

- Congregational Directory- 52 families signed up as interested in having a new picture directory. Becky checked into printing costs, and they would be around \$8 to \$9 each. People can order their pictures directly from the photographer if they are interested, otherwise the photographer will take pictures of everyone at no cost to the church. Becky Fisher made a motion to move forward with a printed picture directory, second by Dawn and motion approved.
 - There was a suggestion of having a wall of member pictures in the fellowship hall. This idea is liked, but not necessarily in place of the directory, but to have both.
- Empower Ed Update and discussion- This a school of about 35 kids aged 5 to 15 currently. They are looking for a new place for their school and are interested in renting our church. They would use four rooms and the outdoor space. Mary Haan spoke to the owner of Cinnamon Hill Preschool, and she had no concerns.
 - Concerns were raised by board member about no fire suppression currently in our building and not being up to code and if this would change our current insurance and if so in what way.
 - Currently the school has an exception to no fire suppression with their insurance company.
 - Next steps:
 - There will be a group that will visit the school and speak to teachers.
 - There will be information shared with the congregation that we are looking into this, but no decision has been made. And a Q and A time will be provided for the congregation before the board decides.
 - Building and Grounds will research the insurance implications and how quickly we can move forward with the fire suppression sprinklers.
 - Discussion will continue at the next board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- The board meetings will now be held in the Craft/Sunday School room, to decrease heating and cooling costs of the fellowship hall and improve the ability for everyone to hear the conversation.
- The Ring system may need an update that would cost about \$1000.00. This would add more lights. Dave is gathering more information and will report back.
- Review Corporate Transparence Act- It was decided that this only applied to the Trust and not the church.

The next board meeting will be April 16, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Erin will give devotions.

Respectfully submitted.

Sheila Long

Clerk