

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
MINUTES OF THE BOARD
January 16, 2024

Moderator Chuck Rounds called the regular meeting of the Board to order at 7:02 p.m. Those present were Chuck Rounds, Eileen Rossow, Patti Arneson, Carol Boyles, Bonnie Edwards, Denise Webster, Erin Erickson, Mary Hahn, Randy Fisher, Becky Fisher, Cindy Ledford, Harlan Stephens, Robin Franson, and Dave Ledford.

Patti Arneson gave devotions on The Smallest Act of Kindness.

The minutes of the December 19, 2023 board meeting were approved with a motion by Harlan Stephens and a second by Randy Fisher.

The sign-up sheet for money counters was passed.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

1. Buildings and Grounds Dave Ledford reported that they have requested a cost quote from Simonds Electric for the lights at the front of the church.
Randy Fisher reported that the vacation of properties has been approved by the city with no exceptions, so the church now has control of the two right of ways. The committee is planning to have an informational meeting sometime in February to inform the congregation of possible plans going forward.
2. Stewardship and Budget Harlan Stephens reported on the financials for 2023. He raised the idea of establishing a Standing Vision Committee to look at long range planning for programming, financial budgeting, membership, and any other goals for the future health of the church. Denise Webster then presented the Proposed Budget for 2024. It was moved by Bonnie Edwards and seconded by Carol Boyles to approve with one change to expense the 2024 Budget to be presented at the Annual Meeting for approval by the congregation. Motion Approved.
3. Education Patti Arneson reported that the "Breakfast Club" is being planned for the last Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m.
4. Hospitality Robin Franson reported that they are tentatively planning an event for Superbowl Sunday.
5. Ministries Cindy Ledford reported that the next Mission Meal would be at the end of March.
6. Worship Bonnie Edwards reported that they discussed plans for Lent and that they have decided to not have congregation singing during communion.
7. Congregational Representative Becky Fisher reported that a new church directory with pictures has been requested. There was discussion about cost. It was suggested that we could do the pictures and publishing in house to save on the cost.
8. Pastor Erin Pastor Erin reported that she has been approved for Ordination. The next step is the call for the Ecclesiastical Council. It was decided that the Hospitality Department would be in charge of the Ordination Celebration. Erin also reported that we have enough new members to have another New Member class.

OLD BUSINESS

1. It was reported that The Call would be about a week late in February.
2. It was requested by the office staff to plan to have January/February Call publication in 2025. The general consensus was approval. We also have a combined Call in June/July.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Eileen Rossow requested approval of “summer hours”. The months of June, July, and August are not as busy, and it would be helpful to the staff if the church office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. It was moved by Bonnie Edwards and seconded by Robin Franson to approve the summer hours. Motion passed.
2. Eileen Rossow reported that the lease agreement with Cinnamon Hill had not been updated since 2017. She requested the approval to create a new lease agreement with a monthly increase of \$15.00 per month to \$1,250. She also reported that we needed to have an updated liability insurance document from Cinnamon Hill. The board approved the request.

Devotions will be given by Becky Fisher for the February meeting.

The next Board meeting will be February 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Eileen Rossow
Clerk