

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
MINUTES OF THE BOARD
November 21, 2023

Moderator Chuck Rounds called the regular meeting of the Board to order at 7:00 p.m. Those present were Eileen Rossow, Patti Arneson, Carol Boyles, Erin Erickson, Susan Kelts, Randy Fisher, Becky Fisher, Mary Haan, Dave Ledford, Cindy Ledford, Robin Franson, Bonnie Edwards, and Harlan Stephens.

Harlan Stephens gave devotions on When You Grow Old.

There were no additions to the Agenda.

The minutes of the October 17, 2023, board meeting were approved with a motion by Patti Arneson and a second by Harlan Stephens.

The sign-up sheet for money counters was passed.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

1. Buildings and Grounds Dave Ledford reported that the hot water heater has been installed. He also fixed a cut sprinkler line in the yard. He reported that one of the light fixtures in the parlor is broken and needs to be fixed. Shawn Krull quoted a price to Patti Arneson to replace the bulbs and install a rheostat in the parlor at about \$75.00. Carol Boyles moved, and Bonnie Edwards seconded a motion to approve the lightbulbs and rheostat installation. Motion passed.
2. Stewardship and Budget Harlan Stephens reported that pledges are behind for the year. The board had a discussion about the fire suppression commitment. There was also discussion about the potential 2024 budget which included a discussion about what our church donation should be to the conference for 2024. No action was taken.
3. Education Patti Arneson reported that they are making plans for the Appetizer for Advent program on December 10th. They are working with Hospitality for this event. She also reminded us that we need to schedule the day to raise the Christmas tree in the Sanctuary. It was decided that December 2nd would be a good day for that project. Mary Haan reported that we have some new young people coming to church regularly. The kids are working on tying blankets. They are also starting a Prayer Pal Program. They are also working on a curriculum for teens and that program will be provided two Sundays a month with Jenny Kozel.
4. Hospitality Robin Franson reminded us of the Appetizers for Advent on December 10th.
5. Ministries No Report.
6. Worship Bonnie Edwards reported that the new members for this department in January will be Ryan Webster and Becky Casselli-Smith. She also reported that the basic Streaming License is being kept and that the \$159 which was voted on at the last meeting would not be used for Praise Music streaming, but rather for copyright license.
7. Congregational Representatives Becky Fisher gave a big thank you to everyone who helped with getting new members for the departments. She reported that it would be helpful if we had an informational presentation about our Open and Affirming status and the meaning of the flags. Erin Erickson said that in the new year she will be doing a series on the History of the Church and information about Open and Affirming could be included in that series. Becky reported the new committee members for 2024: Congregational Rep – Patti Arneson, Dept. of Worship – Becky Casselli-Smith and Ryan Webster, Dept. of Education – Mark Ortega and Kaylee Kruse, and Jane Glover to take over one year for Lynn Grauman, Dept. of Ministries – Laura Switzer and Debbie Erickson, Dept. of Hospitality – Carol Boyles, Colleen Schuft, and Cam Miller replaces Jordan

Barnes, Dept. of Building and Grounds – Thom Palm and Jordan Barnes, and Rick Bell replaces Mark Ortega for one year, Dept. of Stewardship and Budget – yet to be determined, but includes Kyle Grauman, Dowell Casselli-Smith and Andy Knight.

8. Pastor Erin Erin Erickson reported that Jenny Kozel would like to create a committee on Social Media Outreach. It was moved by Carol Boyles and seconded by Susan Kelts that a subcommittee to Ministries should be created for Social Media Outreach. Alicia Sutliff-Benusis, Jenny Kozel and Gianna Grigg would like to be on this committee. Erin reported that COM has made her a licensed minister so that she may provide communion. She will have a meeting soon with them to determine when the final steps in her ordination will take place.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Carpet Cleaning Patti Arneson reported that Paramount will be starting the carpet cleaning on November 22, 2023.
2. Tile Cleaning Paramount provided a quote for stripping and cleaning the slate tile in the entry, narthex and stairs. Total quote was \$6,371. It was decided to table discussion of this expense at this time.
3. Lighting Bid The lighting bid for the Entry, Narthex and Sanctuary was \$4,607.17. Patti was asked to inquire about utilizing memorials for this expense. This item was tabled until we have more information.

NEW BUSINESS

1. North Property Advisory Committee Randy Fisher reported that the vacating easement application was submitted to the City on November 7, 2023. The City Planning Department will meet on December 7, 2023, to review the application, and the application will probably go to the City Council on January 2, 2024.

Devotions will be given by Erin Erickson for the December meeting.

The next Board meeting will be December 19, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Eileen Rossow

Clerk