

## Church Council Meeting- 2/19/2020

**Attendees:** Fred Merrill – Moderator, Reverend Pastor Deborah Roof, Paula Robinson-CE, Christine Lahoullier CE, Beth Hunter Mission, Becky Fleury Treasurer, Cathy Pottle Member at Large, Sue Lindeman Deacons, Anne-Marie Merrill Member at Large, Anne Englehardt Assistant Moderator, Reni Harnden Member at Large, Cathy Zylinski Personnel

Guests: Paul Lindemann, Dee Deranian, Margie Ives

**Opening Prayer** – by Pastor Deborah at 7:00 a.m.

Fred introduced new people to the council and reviewed group norms. Fred passed out conflict of interest forms that needs to be completed for council.

**Minutes from last meeting** – January 15, 2020 – Anne Englehardt made the motion to accept, Cathy Zylinski seconded. No changes – all in favor. Motion passes.

**Financial Statements** – Becky reviewed Balance Sheet. She shared that we received a \$15,000 check from Andy Mack -donation for building rehabilitation. We discussed growing potential - \$44-45,000 (grants/investment funds) available to do work and pay mortgage.

Becky reviewed the budget and how to read it. Budget is in the negative \$64,000 due to oil, plowing, etc. this is normal at this time of the year. Pledges are up for income – 70 pledges. Plate income is up also – individual gave us \$600 donation in January.

Becky reviewed medical insurance – Pastor Deborah will change to Medicare in May/June. There are very good options outside of UCC that provide better coverage and are less expensive. Pastor Deborah is looking into this. UCC is \$344 a month/the option outside would be around \$175.

Finance is looking for a person to write thank you letters to respond to gifts immediately. Paul shared that there are cards for gifts outside the church and those from Friends of the Meetinghouse.

Finance is looking at investments and how they are used, whether we can invest differently, and how much money can be used? The organ fund is very clean we can use right away for organ. Preservation fund can be used except for base fund. Memorial funds need to be looked at and how should they be used. General fund can also be used, and we need to determine how we use the funds. Conversation about next steps for the renovations. Discussion about Bachholder fund and what we are required to use it for.

Action Item: Fred will check with Nutfield School about rent and ask them to sign their lease.

Action Item: Paul reminded us that we need to update the Friends of the Meeting House monthly about gifts for rehabilitation. Becky will do this.

### **Discussion on getting back to the sanctuary – Capital Campaign**

Fred asked about ideas for getting back into the sanctuary – discussion about possible ways to fund raise and present to the congregation.

Can we do individual projects with the big picture in mind – celebrations along the way?

How do we go back to the congregation after we said we won't go back after we said we won't come back after we raised the money last time?

Many people who were members now weren't members then.

Education before the previous campaign we did say that we would need much more than we asked for.

Capital Campaign – we try to find the individuals who can donate bigger funds then go with individuals who are less able to donate.

Can we work off the \$15,000 donation we just received to see if we can get matches?

Thermometer outside to show our success –benchmarks

There have been some people who said they would give if we match –

Look at long term and short-term goals– conflicting things at times. Continued education about what we need is for immediate projects and long-term projects – team of church members who educate and try to give appropriately. Could we have both – long term funding and small chunks of funding.

Friends group responsible for community funding

Congregation inhouse work for fund raising

BAC - Building advisory group - Paul would provide materials and train church members for in house fundraisers

Historical Society

Offer information about planned giving – estate planning – should we bring someone in to educate – seminar?

Paul shared that the Friends of the Meeting House will reboot in March with updates to website and other social media. They will be able to publicize Andy Mack donation as well as several other \$1,000 donations. The church could use this to show church members how they can help. We could break things down into smaller amounts for donations.

Action Item: Anne-Marie, Margie, Pastor Deborah and Sue will meet and come back to the next meeting with ideas.

**Pastor's Report** - Pastor Deborah shared her report. Deacons will come next council meeting with information about people who have moved to inactive per their request – see Pastor's report. Pastor Deborah asked about the coloring contest – prize can be ringing the bell – approved by council.

#### **Round Table-**

Beth – Missions – gifts are down from last year. They are considering lowering all their amounts. Becky shared that they received a \$1,000 gift so they will go ahead for two months. Coffee Hour – Missions will be doing it this Sunday– Beth challenges all boards/committees to take turns!

Nominating committee – Jean Broder for music committee – motion by Beth, second by Margie, all in favor -motion passes.

Becky Fleury –Finance passed.

Cathy Pottle – Member at Large - would like to revitalize our brick project -spring is coming. Would like to get this project going. Thank you to Cathy for her work on this project. All agreed to move forward.

Sue Lindeman –Deacons - Lent is starting – Wednesdays – we will be having a traditional potluck. We will be mixing In programming with services – March 4<sup>th</sup> is Harriet Tubman.

Anne-Marie Merrill – passed

Christine Lahoullier/Paula Robinson– passed

Anne Englehardt – requested presentation from Paul from annual meeting.

Pastor Deborah – reviewed survey from Pastor's sabbatical absence and discussed next steps to get the grant written.

Cathy Zylinski – passed

Dee Deranian -passed.

Margie Ives – thankful for Peggo and her music – wonderful opportunity.

Chris Cox- Holly Gorgol is new head of CE – theme is chosen for summer – trains. CE- Asking for permission to paint a wall in the rainbow room – would like to paint with chalkboard paint and frame it. Family fun night coming up – Kindness Rocks is coming up next Saturday. They are hoping to have a Kindness Rocks Wagon – CE will coordinate with facilities for this and wall.

**Next Meeting will need to be Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> due to Lent.**

**Closing** – Pastor Deborah -8:45 pm.