

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

Minutes

- I. Call to Order 7:01p.m.
 - a. **Attendance:** Faye Casciano, Pastor Ric Elliott, Mike Epperly, Kristin Ervin, Amy Grubb, Susan Mathieu, Chris McGrath, Nina McNally, Pastor Tami Reichley, Mark Stanziola, Chris Pirrotta, Denise Rohrbach and Pastor Spencer Steele
 - b. **Excused:** Mark Binkley, Hayden Fermier and Bob Stevens
 - c. **Devotions:** Chapter 4 – Cultural Architecture – Sue M.
 - d. Adoption of previous Meeting Minutes **Motion:** To approve the minutes for the August Council meeting as submitted, by Sue Mathieu with a second by Chris McGrath. **Approved**

- II. Staff Reports
 - a. Pastor Ric Elliott reported that the “in-person” activity has brought good energy to the church. The staff is doing an incredible amount of good work, including Chris Carter and his effective ability to manage the Building process. Nursery school classes are at full capacity.

- III. Finance Update
 - a. Mike Epperly provided an update on finances. Year to date operating expenses are lower due to good management by the staff.
 - b. Spirit Alive funds update was provided
 - c. Building Fund update – Additional change orders were approved and will be reflected in September financial information.

- IV. Building Project Update
 - a. Occupancy target is early November 2021 with actual worship services in the building anticipated for late November 2021/early December 2021. Initially, the organ platform will be built and preparations will be made for the delivery of chairs in late October/early November.
 - b. Another construction topic was discussed about getting a price for upgrading the existing Fire Alarm system (to include sirens, strobe warnings and pull boxes) and to get prices to replace the burglary system (which is outdated). The rationale of doing this now is to get the work done while contractors are on site and to standardize the systems throughout the building. The cost of these upgrades would be taken from our healthy cash reserves (most likely between \$20,000 to 40,000). The current request is to get prices and Chris Carter and Chris McGrath will report back to council requesting specific funding.

- V. Mission Team Reports

- a. OUTREACH - A huge thank you to the Benevolence sub-committee for establishing criteria and a process for selecting benevolence recipients as well as outlining the recommendation for 2021. Documents outlining the details were distributed to Council for review. New agencies have been added and the goal is to have Benevolence be 10% of operating budget. The annual total benevolence \$ includes both budgeted benevolence \$ and non-budgeted benevolence \$ with % calculation developed against Total revenue \$ received (refer to p 35 of 2020 Annual report which projects 12.1% for 2021 compared with 9% actual in 2020) **Motion:** The Benevolence sub-committee (of Outreach Mission Team) presents the criteria and process for selecting Benevolence agencies as well as the proposed recipients for 2021, second by Pastor Tam Reichley **Approved.** Post meeting: Follow up discussion concluded the approved list will need to be for 2022 (not 2021) since the 2021 list was already approved by the congregation at the Annual meeting and it would require a special congregational meeting and vote to revise. Approved motion to be amended and presented at the October council meeting.
- b. TECHNOLOGY– Currently reviewing the need to replace the telephone system that will be \$50-\$60 more per month in charges. Most options will include equipment as well as services.

VI. Old Business

- a. Options for improvements are being reviewed to ensure the security of the web page. Personal contact information (emails/phone) is being removed from communications posted to the webpage.

VII. New Business

- a. COVID Protocols
 - i. Discussed the extension of the tent rental to the end of November 2021 to accommodate the well-attended Family Service. This also provides worship options for Cat Class families. We have had requests to continue the tent despite the cold. The cost will be \$2700 for another month. **Motion:** To extend the tent rental through November - by Pastor Ric Elliott with a second by Chris Pirrotta **Approved**
 - ii. More details to be gathered regarding logistics/costs related to propane heaters and this will be discussed at the October Council meeting
 - iii. **Motion:** To extend Austin Gross' contract through the month of November at the cost of \$875 to coincide with the extension of the tent rental - by Pastor Ric Elliott, with a second by Amy Grubb **Approved.**
 - iv. Discussed possible Zoom Service schedule restructuring with potentially changing the time of Zoom Service. The plan is to do a poll of those on the next ZOOM service - asking what time of service is preferred (8:30a or 10:30a).

- b. **Motion:** To approve a contract with The Portrait Cafe for portrait sessions for a pictorial directory to be conducted in March - at no cost to congregation, by Mike Epperly with a second by Faye Casciano **Approved**
 - c. Discussion to continue working on/restructuring a combined Family Service/Sunday School service.

- VIII. Next Meeting – October 19, 2021 7p via ZOOM
 - i. Devotions – Chapter 5 – Cultural Architecture (Pastor Ric)

- IX. Adjourned in prayer at 8:40p