

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

November 16, 2021

Minutes

- I. Call to Order 7:01p
 - a. Attendance: Faye Casciano, Pastor Ric Elliott, Mike Epperly, Kristin Ervin, Hayden Fermier, Amy Grubb, Susan Mathieu, Chris McGrath, Nina McNally, Pastor Tami Reichley, Mark Stanziola, Chris Pirrotta, Denise Rohrbach and Bob Stevens and Pastor Spencer Steele
 - b. Excused: Mark Binkley
 - c. Devotions – Mark S. (Cultural Architecture - Last Chapter & Epilogue)

- II. Adoption of previous Meeting Minutes **Motion:** To approval minutes of the October meeting, with suggested corrections by Sue Mathieu, with a second by Kristin Ervin. **Approved**

- III. Staff Reports - The staff appreciated the approval of the Christmas Eve plans (circulated by Council by email) so they can plan.

- IV. FINANCE
 - a. Mike Epperly provided the monthly Financial status for October.

Operating Income in October was \$45,589 being \$13.3K under the October Budget with operating pledged income also being \$5.2K lower than October Budget while operating unpledged income was \$ 6.5K lower than October Budget. Operating Expenses in October were \$72,249 being \$859 lower than expected.

SPIRIT LED/SPIRIT ALIVE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN - Account cash balance is \$ 156,714. (October donations \$ 18,424 - which includes \$1.030 from Memorials for date stone)

BUILDING PROJECT LOAN - Balance on Mission Investment Fund Building Project loan at end of October is \$340, 707

BUILDING FUND - October month end balance was \$9,061. (Donations \$ 990)
 - b. **Motion:** On behalf of the finance Mission Team, Mike Epperly moved to authorize disbursement of total sum of \$2,444.58 from Cash Exchange to four entities: Angel Network, Zionsville Food Pantry, Second Harvest and World Hunger. Each group will receive \$611.15. Second by Pastor Tami. **Approved.** A request on behalf of the Benevolence group is that before they are sent out contact Bob Mueller so a letter can be sent along with the checks.
 - c. It was noted that at the March, 16th 2021 Council Meeting it was approved to distribute a total of \$6,000.00 from Cash Exchange to same four entities (as listed above). Each group received \$1,500 at that time.
 - d. During December 2021, the 2021 Congregational Benevolence fund amounts will be disbursed to the various designated groups before year end 2021. As above, Benevolence requests they are notified when checks go out so a letter can be included. In 2021, Total Budgeted Benevolence was \$65,180.
 - e. **Motion:** The Endowment Committee requests approval by Council to:

- Change the investment of the Richard Schmid Memorial Fund from the Vanguard Wellesley Income Fund Investor Shares to the Vanguard Wellington Investor Share Fund,
- Change the Pastor Walter A. and Mrs. Phyllis L. Kuntzleman Scholarship Fund from the Vanguard Inflation-Protected Securities Fund Investor Shares to the Vanguard Wellington Investor Share Fund,
- Change the Carolyn and Erwin Schmid Memorial Trust Fund from the Vanguard Short-Term Federal Fund Admiral Shares to the Vanguard Wellington Admiral Share Fund*.
*Admiral classification requires a minimum balance of \$50,000

Second by Bob Stevens. **Approved.**

V. Building Project Update

Bob Stevens shared that the occupancy target is Dec 13, 2021 with the rate limiting step of painting which needs to be done by Nov 29, 2021 so carpet can be installed along with other activity that can't be done until painting is done.

VI. Mission Team Reports

a. Worship/Reopening Committee Updates

- Motion:** Pastor Ric Elliott moves to recommend a target date of Jan 9, 2022 as the first Sunday in the building. If the target date is Jan 2, 2022, preparations would need to happen over the holidays and it will be difficult to find volunteers. Second by Mike Epperly. **Approved.**
- Motion:** Pastor Ric Elliott moves to continue the rental of the tent and heaters/propane through December 24th, 2021 at a cost of \$5000, second by Amy Grubb. **Approved.**
- Services on Dec 26, 2021 and Jan 2, 2022 will be done on Zoom.
- It was also discussed that snow can be a limitation and the tent will come down if there is a heavy snow – it will come down and not go back up. Propane would still have to be paid for but not the heaters.
- The tent will be a great asset (reliable) for Christmas Eve but if we can't use the tent (if it comes down earlier due to heavy snow) for 7p service, then service would be outside.
- The Open House (in the building) on Christmas Eve is contingent on the occupancy permit.

- The Nursery School is experiencing increased negativity of parents this year due to the disruptions/scheduling changes - when teachers have to quarantine, for example. Last year parents were thrilled to have an option of in person school. Karin Kahler wanted to be sure to keep this in mind and recommends **keeping the PPP loan/grant in the cash exchange** as coverage in case of student withdrawals, reimbursement provided for missed classes and increased substitute teacher fees, for example.

VII. Old Business

Chris McGrath provided an update on the security cameras and Homeland Security Grant. The work on wiring has been done while the walls were opened and the cost was \$6500. It was approved at the last council meeting to proceed to seek a camera system not to exceed

\$25,000. They now have a quote (adding 2 extra cameras and including the wiring) in the amount of \$35,799. This will be covered by the Homeland Security Grant. Chris McGrath and Chris Carter will meet to review the breakdown and the grant documentation and come back to Council with specific numbers for approval - at the December Council meeting or between meetings.

VIII. New Business

- a. It was decided to consider acting upon the new potential gift list for donors after the first of the year so it does not coincide with the Advent tithe and the building project.
- b. Council representatives with terms ending this year were reviewed and Denise Rohrbach and Sue Mathieu will continue for a second three-year term. Chris McGrath and Mark Binkley will end their current three-year term. Youth representative Hayden Fermier and Pastor Spencer Steele will evaluate Hayden's 1-year term/renewal and come back to council with an update.
- c. Nominating Team - Chris McGrath and Mark Stanziola will work with Pastor Ric Elliott to find members to fill the resulting two council vacancies.
- d. The status of Austin Gross' position is under review to determine if he will continue to a more permanent position. Staff Support will meet and review with Sharon MacCabe long with the budgetary implications. The outcome will be reviewed and approved as part of the annual budgeting process.

IX. Next Meeting – December 21, 2021
Assignment of Devotions to Chris Pirrotta
Adjourned in Prayer at 8:21p