

Friends Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Church Council Minutes

December 14, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.

Attendees:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Angela Calise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brian Gilson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bill Harper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kelly Wellman
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dan De Leon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Angel Glover	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loretta Mendez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trent Williams
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jill Fouch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cathy Hansen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Anne Wehrly	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Meeting was called to order at 6:02

1. **Opening Story/Invocation** was given by Brian. He shared some reflections on this challenging year of 2020 and his first year teaching.
2. **Minutes** from November 16 council meeting were reviewed. –Cathy pointed out the change to “disposal” instead of “disposer.” **Brian moved and Angel seconded that minutes be approved as revised. Motion carried.**
3. **Treasurer’s Report** No treasurer’s report was available for the meeting.
4. **Old Business**
 - a. **Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) Follow Up + Report from Representative** – Angel will synthesize the input she has received and be ready to share insights at our January meeting. How do we respond when we feel uneasy in issues related to race? Dan asked about proximity to whiteness—Angel said that whiteness is believed to be the ideal by many. Angel said that it is OK to feel uneasy in this discussion. Brian and Cathy said that they really appreciated the questions that Angel presented to us. How do we move forward? Stay tuned for January discussion.
 - b. **Financial Services Review Committee Update** – Cathy reported that their committee has contacted other companies beyond the ones they initially identified. They have found 2 they would like to pursue further. They will submit a name to the finance committee as they make final decision.
5. **New Business**
 - a. **COVID-19 Update Roundtable** – Dan recommends that we move to RED on our decision meter. That will impact face to face worship in January which will now be remote. Council was in agreement on move to Red. There was a discussion about how that would affect the plan by Justice and Mission to compile gift baskets for the homeless community. Anne volunteered to communicate with Linda Coats (who is in charge of gift basket initiative) about the change to Red which impacts gathering at the church.
 - b. **2021 Budget Update**

By a council voted taken on-line Dec. 4th, we decided to cancel the congregational meeting originally set for Dec. 13 since there had not been enough response to the pledge campaign. Since then, the finance committee met and debriefed . Trent has proposed a time line moving forward. They will be following up with Carl Farenwald, stewardship chair. Initial pledge count was 37 pledges that had been received. We had 75 in the previous year. They have sent out messages via email to persons who have pledged before. They will do phone check-ins. The first week of January Finance committee will meet again and see where the revenue is. Current count is 54 pledges. At the time of this meeting a little over \$308,000 has been pledged.

- c. **Determine date for Congregational Meeting** – Kelly proposed January 17th as the date for Congregational meeting to consider budget. January 11th the Council would meet to look at the budget. We will take up Angel’s Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Follow-up on January 11th.
 - d. **Strategic Planning Update** – Kelly reminded us of our substantive work with Elizabeth Resnick during 2020. How do we start living these values? All our work took a back seat when COVID took over. It is time to dust that off and get back to work. Kelly will be meeting with Dan and Trent to discuss how to move forward.
 - e. **Consider changing January Council meeting to Jan 28** -Kelly explained that the people we have been talking to regarding assisting with financial services would necessitate a potential move of our council meeting so that we would have full financial information at the time of our meeting. **Cathy moved that we move to the 4th Monday of the month. Anne seconded. Motion carried.**
6. **Senior Pastor’s Report** –Dan is proud of the youth group. We hope that a mission trip can happen in 2021. Outdoor worship has gone well. Angela is assisting with getting info communicated. Dan shared the challenge of providing pastoral care even with two pastors. Brian asked about the possibility for people to be on call—would that be in the budget? Anne suggested approaching Brooke Dooley, our member is discernment. Also there is a list of pulpit supply available through the conference office. Dan is excited about his invited sermon at Brite Divinity School.
 7. **Associate Pastor’s Report** – Trent reported that there were 11 folks at Inquiry Class. Several new opportunities are underway under the leadership of Spiritual Life. A Stewardship timeline document has been created to assist with keeping us on track with Stewardship drive. Trent is exploring enrolling in Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising at Lake Institute on Faith & Giving.
 8. **Report from Deputy Moderator for Trustees** – Bill is going to proceed with getting window and food disposal fixed.
 9. **Report from Deputy Moderator for Programs** - Angela submitted report.
 10. **Calendar reminders**
 - a. January 11 – Special Meeting for Budget Review & Angel follow-up
 - b. January 17 – Congregational Meeting following worship
 - c. January 25 – Church Council meeting @ 6:00 p.m.

Bill made motion to adjourn and Angel seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30.

Respectfully and Faithfully submitted,

Anne Wehrly

Council Secretary

At an on-line meeting on December 15th Kelly asked that Church Council address Christmas gifts for our clergy and staff. After conferring with treasurer regarding previous years, Kelly presented a recommendation for gifts to Council. **Brian moved and Angel seconded the motion that Kelly’s recommendation be approved. Motion carried.**

At an on-line meeting on Dec. 20th **Anne moved and Cathy seconded that the Friends Church Council approve 2021 parsonage allowance for our Senior and Associate Pastor. Motion carried.**