

Friends Congregational Church, United Church of Christ – Church Council Minutes

February 22, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.

Attendees:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Angela Calise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brian Gilson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bill Harper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kelly Wellman
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dan De Leon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Angel Glover	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loretta Mendez	<input 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 by Cathy, Vice Moderator, at 6:05. Meeting was virtual due to COVID restrictions.

- 1. Opening Story** was provided by Loretta . She shared from the book of devotions *I Hear his Whisper* by Brian Simmons.
- 2. Review of minutes from previous meeting** **Angela moved/Bill seconded the motion that minutes from January 25, 2021 be approved as presented. Motion carried.**
- 3. Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI)** discussion was facilitated by Angel.
Safety is different than accountability. Anti -racism work can be painful and uncomfortable. Any reactions or thoughts are valued. Cathy shared that she felt uncomfortable reading a post by Dustin (Friends participant) who shared about how he was treated in an incident which occurred in B/CS. Angel talked to us about “leaning in” to the dissonance. Angela has been thinking about ways we can share with others about how many have found a “safe haven” at Friends. Angel had asked if someone from Friends could watch the seminar *Equity and Equality in the Movement for Radical Justice* which was provided by the UCC national office. Anne did so and shared some of her take-aways. A few of note are: 1.) The UCC is committed to being an anti-racist denomination: 2.) Anti-racism is the work of the Whole church; 3.) Listening to the **stories** of individuals who have been in anti-racism work for many years is critical; and 4.) The UCC is in the fight for anti-racism for the long haul, we are guided by the spirit, and we are never alone.
- 4. Treasurer’s Report** was provided by Loretta. See page 3 for full overview.
Loretta let us know that we got a past due notice for mowing services and she paid \$1680 that was due. Loretta reported that \$4784.20 has been donated through CARES fund donations Since Jan 1, 2021.
- 5. Old Business**
 - Loretta reported that the Financial Services Committee has met. She is working with Thompson, Derrig & Craig to transfer some of the church financial services to their company. March will be the first month they will begin services.
 - Cathy led a discussion on the payroll decision for our childcare worker. Cathy noted that we have paid her throughout. We discussed the idea of her performing some other service for the church. For example, the nursery is in need of re-organization since the flooding that occurred last week. She has a unique knowledge base about the children she serves. It is an opportunity for us. Brian suggested that we keep paying her—it is a small amount. If we removed it now, it would feel weird. It seems like the right thing to do. Others noted that she is loyal and dependable. It would be a slap in the face. Are we paying others for clean-up work they are doing? **Loretta**

moved/Jill seconded the motion that we continue to pay our childcare worker.

Motion carried.

- c. Strategic Planning Update – Kelly will contact Elizabeth Resnick to determine what she sees as our next step. Dan pointed out that our pathway might not be the same as in February 2020 when COVID caused great changes in our lives and the life of the church. He reminded us that church council is the main visioning body for Friends Church.

6. New Business

- a. Appoint 2 members to the Nominations Committee. After discussion, **Anne moved and Jill seconded the motion that Kristin Harper and Kenny Wiley be approached to serve on the nominations committee. Backups if they are not able to serve are Pam Engler and Katie Ratcliff. Motion carried.** Jill will contact the perspective members.
- b. Consider potential Friends representatives to the South Central Conference. In March we will be identifying individuals to represent Friends at the South Central Conference Annual meeting. We should be thinking of who should be nominated. Last year Jackie Womack and Brooke Dooley were our representatives.
- c. COVID-19 Update Roundtable – Dan says that church staff have decided to move the Decision Meter to Orange effective tomorrow. The health care professionals in our church feel like being outside is the safest way to get together. What is a crowd? Up to 10 people. Fellowship and Christian Ed. are asking for small group meetings. Angela requested procedural guidelines to pass on to committee chairs. **Brian moved and Angela seconded the motion that in the event that we go back to Red on the decision meter, small groups will still be able to meet outside at the church. Motion carried.**
- d. Storm damage report – Bill Harper asked that we refer to full report submitted by Susan Fontaine. We are getting a bid from Restoration 1 who has done the work so far. We have been impressed with their response time and their work. Other people on council who know contractors should contact Bill with that information.

7. Senior Pastor's Report-Dan submitted written report. He acknowledged some of the challenges of carrying on through all the power outages of the previous week. This affected Ash Wednesday plans. He shared the joy of performing a recent wedding of a former youth from Friends. Planning for 2-month sabbatical continues.

8. Associate Pastor's Report-Trent's report was submitted in written form.

9. Report from Congregational Representatives –No report from Brian and Jill. Work on Nominations committee will begin soon.

10. Report from Deputy Moderator for Trustees –Bill reported on some building developments: Upper windows in the sanctuary have been repaired by Shulte Roofing, metal ramp into the office doors has been removed to be galvanized, gutters have gotten a new downspout, and cover is being put to protect AC lines outside the kitchen window.

11. Report from Deputy Moderator for Programs –Angela is working with committees to re-imagine how their groups are going to get together more and move beyond the limitations put on us by COVID.

12. Calendar reminders

- a. March 22 – Church Council meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
Angela moved and Angel seconded the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:59.

Respectfully and Faithfully submitted,

Anne Wehrly

January 2021 Treasurer's Notes			
<u>Operating Budget Notes:</u>			
Donation & Misc. Income		\$ 35,307.00	
Expenses		\$ 29,887.68	
Net Income		\$ 5,419.32	
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Year to Date Net Income		\$ 5,419.32	
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Operating Balance at EOM:		\$ 6,171.94	
<u>Mortgage Notes:</u>			
Mortgage Payment		\$ 2,231.72	
Capital Bank Balance at EOM		\$ 547.50	
Mortgage Principal Balance at EOM		\$106,305.66	
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Bank Account Balances			
Operating Account		\$ 256,050.27	
Pastor's Account		\$ 1,047.92	
Reserves		\$ 50,283.16	
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<u>Other Notes:</u>			
1) The month ended with a positive of \$6,171.94.			
2) The mortgage payment included additional \$547.50 toward the mortgage principal			