

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

January 25, 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kelly Wellman
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dan De Leon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Angel Glover	<input checked="" 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"/>	

1. **Opening Story/Invocation** – Bill talked about delivering food from Peace Lutheran food distribution to the folks we are serving at the Holiday Motel. This was a glimpse of God’s kingdom on earth.
2. **Review of minutes from previous meeting** Change “tradition” to “traditional.” **Brian moved/Bill seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
3. **Diversity Equity Inclusion (DEI) discussion**

Dan led the church council in a discussion of what we learned in our discussions about DEI issues. Kelly says that safety means that you may make mistakes. Do not assume bad intentions. Jill said that she has found it helpful to talk to Belinda, a church member, about race. “She helps me understand” said Jill. Cathy says that she finds herself checking herself a lot. When you cross a line, consider using a word that alerts other people. Loretta feels safe at Friends. Her extended family brings up issues. We want to create safe space—unlikely to cause discomfort. In Angela’s work she said they use the term “Brave Space” —not “Safe Space.” Be respectful and do the work. Brian offers that “comfort” and “safety” are different things. Psalm 48 God alone provides safety.

What do I need to enable a constructive conversation about race? Kelly—you believe other people’s experiences even if you have not lived them—assume good intent. Dan says that he needs covenant—that we will not walk away from the table. We need to be accountable in love. Dan hopes that we can make decisions through the lens of understanding.

4. **Treasurer’s Report** was given by Loretta (see page 3 for summary). Brian asked about the funds in the PPP Loan . Trent offered that we are not eligible to apply again since we have not had a 25 % decrease in any one quarter. The finance committee will discuss what to do with the \$30,000 that was left at the end of 2020. Our monthly expenditures is roughly \$36,000. Trent is celebrating generosity. Loretta is trying to get most bills on-line. Pension Board has gone to on-line payment which is helpful.

## 5. Old Business

- a. Cathy reported from the Financial Services Review Committee. After a thorough investigation, the committee is recommending Thompson, Derrig & Craig, P.C. to be the Friends provider. Finance committee is in agreement. Cathy suggests that Council review how the provider is working within 3 to 4 months. Cathy asked that the sub committee be dismissed. **Cathy moved/ Loretta seconded the motion that church council approve the contract with Thompson, Derrig & Craig. Motion carried.**
- b. Strategic Planning Update—Kelly intends to have a meeting with Dan and Trent.

**6. New Business**

- a. COVID-19 Update Roundtable – Church Council --no issues to discuss. We continue on Red.
- 7. **Senior Pastor’s Report**-- Dan reported that it has been challenging to keep youth together since they have “ Zoom fatigue.” Dan assisted in coordinating MLK-based Bible study in collaboration with the Lincoln Center. Dan reviewed his proposed goals summarized as follows: (1) Continue leading the congregation through the pandemic, (2) Nurture the stewardship of our congregation, (3) Provide consistent, established support for our children, youth, and families, (4) Pursue management of sabbaticals, and (5) Let go of some church matters in a healthy way.
- 8. **Associate Pastor’s Report** – Trent reported on his work with Soul Friends groups with target date to start with Lent. He shared that the “Altar in the World” was the first book in a Book Club series. Trent will begin the Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising program that is offered through the Lake Institute on Faith and Giving.
- 9. **Report from Congregational Representatives**–Jill Fouch and Brian Gilson No report
- 10. **Report from Deputy Moderator for Trustees** was given by Bill.  
Various repairs and upgrades have been undertaken including garbage disposal, window repair (under warranty) , automatic door, and air conditioning. An estimate for replacement of paneling and windows in the horseshoe area in the back is being sought.
- 11. **Report from Deputy Moderator for Programs** was given by Angela . Christian Ed. Is doing an on-line poll of parents seeking their input. Fellowship is hosting a zoom trivia night. Justice and Mission continues it work with Peace Lutheran in distributing food weekly.
- 12. **Closed session** – Personnel-related discussion.

After discussion **Anne moved and Cathy seconded the motion to approval for a one- time merit raise of 1.5% for Dan. Motion carried.** There was discussion about continued payment of childcare worker from March 2020 to present. It was decided to defer discussion to February meeting.

13. Calendar reminders

- a. February 22 – Church Council meeting @ 6:00 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully and Faithfully submitted,

*Anne Wehrly*

Council Secretary

**January 2021 Treasurer's Notes**

**Operating Budget Notes:**

Donation & Misc. Income	\$ 35,307.00
Expenses	\$ 29,887.68
Net Income	\$ 5,419.32

Year to Date Net Income	\$ 5,419.32
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Operating Balance at EOM:	\$ 6,171.94
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**Mortgage Notes:**

Mortgage Payment	\$ 2,231.72
Capital Bank Balance at EOM	\$ 547.50
Mortgage Principal Balance at EOM	\$106,305.66

**Bank Account Balances**

Operating Account	\$ 256,050.27
Pastor's Account	\$ 1,047.92
Reserves	\$ 50,283.16
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**Other Notes:**

- 1) The month ended with a positive of \$6,171.94.
- 2) The mortgage payment included additional \$547.50 toward the mortgage principal