

**Unofficial/Unapproved Annual Meeting Minutes  
First Congregational Church  
February 28th, 2021**

**Members in Attendance: 57**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Audra Bailey called the meeting to order at 11:25 a.m. Pastor Becky David said an opening prayer. We affirmed our constitutional covenant in unison.

**MOTION FOR APPROVAL:** Linda Shearer moved to approve the minutes from last year's annual meeting. Phil Koenig seconded and the motion passed.

**MOTION FOR APPROVAL:** Nominating Committee members: Audra Bailey, Cliff Carlson, Carol Freeman, Wes Llewellyn and Steve Schippers. Nominating Committee Chairperson Audra Bailey presented the slate of returning members and nominees for the following boards and church council (names of nominees appear with an asterisk):

- **Outreach and Mission**
  - One year: Pam Wendt, Aubrey Meers
  - Two years: Susi Llewellyn
  - Three years: Sara Wynn\*, Michelle Hammond, Gary Hammond, Christine Nelson
- **Spiritual Engagement**
  - One year: Kristi Bailey, Lucy Manis
  - Two years: Marcella Armstrong
  - Three years: Shirley Morton\*, Marcia Renaud\*, Joanna Dye\*, OPEN
- **Christian Education**
  - One year: Amanda Beck, Angie Suman, Tanya Wandrey, Kerry Johnson
  - Two years:
  - Three years: Kim Fuller\*, Morgan Fredriksen\*, Abby Stickell\*
- **Building and Finance**
  - One year: Layne Porembski, Jeff Newcomb, Neil Fuller
  - Two years: Phil Koenig
  - Three years: Dave Geenen\*, Delma Reakes\*, Bill Henning\*
- **Church Council**
  - One year: Russ Armstrong
  - Two years: Tami Cady
  - At-Large: Barb Guss\*

Audra Bailey called for a motion to approve the nominations. Phil Koenig motioned to approve and Linda Schearer seconded the motion.

The motion to approve the new nominees passed.

Audra then thanked the following outgoing members of boards and council:

- o **Outreach and Mission**
  - Michael Dyer and Steve Schippers
- o **Spiritual Engagement**
  - Reid Odean, Ron Smith and Barb Guss
  
- o **Building and Finance**
  - Josh Dyer
- o **Church Council**
  - Wes Llewellyn, At-Large and Desiree Grace, At-Large

#### **ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE REPORT AND MOTIONS FOR APPROVAL:**

Steve Schippers shared that the endowment committee did a study over the past year and sent requests for proposal to five firms- two local and three national. They received responses, did an analysis of 6-year pro forma, and selected to move the endowment fund from First Midwest to Vanguard Lifestrategy Funds (70/30- equity, bonds). Steve Schippers, on behalf of the endowment committee, made a motion to approve moving the endowment fund from the current firm to Vanguard. Congregation voted. Motion carries.

On behalf of the endowment committee, Steve Schippers made a motion to appoint Phil Koenig, Dave Geenen, and Steve Schippers to serve as authorized agents for the Vanguard account and for the First Midwest endowment account for the 2021 church year. Congregation voted. Motion carries.

On behalf of the endowment committee, Steve Schippers made a motion to authorize the endowment study team to research and create a report for the Building and Finance board and the church council prior to the next annual meeting with their recommendations on endowment fund investment policies, controls process, and guiding philosophy in light of the church's ministry. Motion amended to include names of committee- Steve Schippers, Nancy Henning, Phil Koenig, Dave Geenen, and Chuck White. Congregation voted. Motion carries.

## **BUILDING PROJECTS:**

### Completed projects in 2020:

Chiller replaced: \$70,000

Sanctuary Window Repair: \$109,830

### Projected projects for 2021:

Replace heating system: \$600,000

Tuckpointing (Sanctuary, Cheek walls and Red Wagon): \$45,000

And, an additional \$155,000 to complete the project

Roofing: \$20,000

LED lighting: \$30,000

Steve Schippers presented a motion to authorize the early withdrawal of the \$177,500 that is allocated for 2022 to be used in 2021 for the purpose of replacing the boiler. Kimberly Dyer seconded the motion. Congregation voted. Motion carries.

## **MOTION FOR APPROVAL MINISTRY BUDGET:**

Audra Bailey presented the ministry budget for 2020. This year's surplus will be applied to the deficit we had in 2019. Audra Bailey presented the proposed budget for 2021. We did receive a PPP loan in 2020 for \$75,000 which allowed us to continue paying staff. We do not qualify for the second round of PPP loans. Neil Fuller motioned to approve the proposed budget. Dieter Harle seconded the motion. Congregation voted. Motion carries.

**NEW  
BUSINESS:**

Neil Fuller presented a motion to consider the documented loans, totaling the amount of \$175,000, that the church has taken from the endowment funds withdrawals and forgive the documented loans and Dave Geenen seconded the motion. Several members recommended we have a professional audit done. Dave Geenen rescinded his second and Kim Fuller then seconded the motion. Pastor Becky said we obviously have many considerations to make about an audit being done and utilization of endowment funds going forward, but we need to vote on the motion that is on the table. There were 19 votes for the motion and 23 votes against the motion. Two people abstained from voting. The motion did not carry.

Pastor Becky addressed next steps. A transition team has been created: Susi Llewelyn, Sunny Moorhusen, Jim Moorhusen, Kim Fuller, Emilia Deem, Christine Nelson. Inquiry- Council and Transition team will develop a plan for diving into the current situation, how we got here and where we are going. Investment- members and friends need to invest fully in the process- finances, energy, prayer. Inspiration- (literally to be animated by Spirit) and we should also have fun.

Partial re-open begins on Sunday, March 7th.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Audra Bailey adjourned the meeting.