

**EMERGENCY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
JANUARY 30, 2022**

In Attendance: In-house 54 participants
Facebook: 24 viewers
YouTube: 18 viewers

Call to Order: Moderator Audra Bailey called the meeting to order at 11:15AM. Interim Pr. Becky David opened the meeting with a prayer.

Purpose: Audra Bailey explained to those in attendance that the purpose of the meeting was to make sure the congregation has a better understanding of where the church is prior to the annual meeting on February 13, 2022. Following an explanation of the procedure for comments and questions, Audra told those in attendance and listening that she did not anticipate a vote on anything discussed.

Engagement Challenges:

After thanking the Nominating Committee for their work over the past several months, Audra informed members that the following positions need to be filled:

- Council Moderator and Vice-Moderator.
- HR help on the Personnel Committee
- Teachers and shepherds on Christian Education
- Volunteers to serve in worship, bus drivers, etc.

Several members asked questions regarding the requirements of open positions and what qualifies or disqualifies someone.

In answer to the question about the possibility of having co-moderators, Audra said that that is a possibility.

Pr. Becky reminded members that we are in transition and this is a time to establish boundaries; without them leaders can't lead.

Financial Challenges:

Currently pledges are down and Audra reiterated the importance of pledging. She went on to show graphs of expenses and income and told members we need \$21,742 to meet a deficit budget. The graphs also indicated how many years we have had deficit budgets.

Some good news came in the form of two generous donations from estates of members as well as a PPP loan.

Again, several members asked questions about moving forward with our finances, making better use of our building, and informing the congregation when there is a need to cover an unexpected expense. Others made comments about auto-giving and possibly joining with another congregation.

Pr. Becky summed up the discussion by saying that this is a make or break year and hard decisions need to be made. We can't move forward by looking backward and not communicating effectively.

Closing: Following a prayer from Pr. Becky the meeting was adjourned at 12:37PM