

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 08, 2022**

In Attendance: Pr. Becky David (Interim Senior Pastor), Diann Moore (At Large), Joshua Dyer (Council Chair), Marcella Armstrong (Spiritual Engagement), Steve Schippers (Building and Finance), Susi Llewellyn (Red Wagon via Zoom), Sara Wynn (Outreach and Mission), Barb Guss (At Large), Heather Carlson (Clerk)

Absent: Abby Stickell (Christian Education)

Prayer: Pr. Becky opened the meeting at 6:14 PM with a prayer.

Approval of

Minutes:

Marcella Armstrong moved to approve the minutes from the February meeting. Barb Guss seconded. There was no discussion. Motion passed.

Quick Reports:

Pastor's Report

- Pr. Becky did not have a complete pastor's report but told Council she was pleased with how the Leadership Retreat went Sunday.

Spiritual Engagement

- Marcella Armstrong reported on the following:
 - They discussed the Care Ministry
 - "Full to the Brim" is the program to be used during Lent.
 - Lenten services are Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday
 - Wednesday soup suppers will be held during Lent
 - Marcella Armstrong volunteered to make signage for the communion and Christmas closet doors
 - Mary Curry volunteered to fill the Devotions position. Vice Chair and Secretary are unfilled at present.
 - SE needs to organize and train members and youth to prepare, serve and clean up communion by April 1.
- **Building and Finance**
- Steve Schippers reported on the following:
 - Jeff Nelson is vice-chair and Kristi Bailey is secretary
 - Phil Koenig has agreed to challenge our phone contract and work through all contracts
 - They will follow up on the sale of the parking lot
 - They approved taking down the gate arms. However, Pr. Becky explained situations that have occurred in the parking lot and strongly urged that the gate remain as is.
 - Diann Moore advised Steve Schippers of a grant application deadline with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Steve is working on that and sent a letter of intent to them.
- **Outreach and Mission**
- Sara Wynn reported on the following:
 - They are working on a blood drive in May and are in the process of working out their calendar.
- **Red Wagon**
- Susi Llewellyn reported on the following:
 - Red Wagon appreciates being a board and having a seat on Council.

- Masks are no longer required.
- They will be having vision and hearing screenings this month.
- Graduation is set for May 21 with the summer session beginning May 31.
- They are in need of another teacher.
- **Christian Education**
- No report

New Business: Congregational Meeting April 3

- Carol Freeman and another volunteer will present information to the congregation prior to the meeting during Adult Forums.
- The 2022 Governance Model, update on the endowment, and recommendation to draw from the endowment will be presented for congregational approval.
- Pr. Becky stressed that the congregation should be aware that this is a pivotal year for the church, that we need to be creative in our approach to moving forward, and that we need to ask the congregation to think about what our focus should be.
- There was discussion about whether or not to provide a lunch. Diann Moore moved that we hire a caterer to serve the congregation at the Congregational Meeting April 3. Marcella Armstrong seconded. Motion passed.

Leadership Expectations

- Pr. Becky handed out a draft of a Leadership Covenant to members of Council for discussion. There was a lengthy discussion about what it means to hold a leadership position in the church and what the expected behavior of leaders should be. It was agreed that Pr. Becky will revise the list of expectations so that undue pressure is not put on any member of leadership, but expectations will be clear.

Charters

- Joshua Dyer asked board chairs if they have had a chance to review their board charters and also asked them to review them with their respective boards to see where they are in relation to them.

Events

- There was a positive discussion about bringing back events that make church life enjoyable and that provide a pathway into the church. Examples of events were the Valentine's Day Dinner Theater, Octoberfest, and the trivia nights. Joshua Dyer asked each board to consider the following possibilities while stressing that these are not directives:
 - Spiritual Engagement – bring back after worship fellowship in some form.
 - Christian Education – pick up the Valentine's dinner and have the youth plan it and participate in it
 - Outreach and Mission – plan an Octoberfest or potluck dinner
 - Building and Finance – plan a trivia night.
 - Red Wagon – is still new to the council but their graduation ceremony would be a starting point.

Elexio

- Amber Moore and Amber Olson are working on updating and streamlining Elexio by contacting members for current information.

Election of Delegate to the Western Association and Illinois Conference

- Steve Schippers moved to appoint Mary Newcomb as the delegate to the Western Association and Illinois Conference. Diann Moore seconded. Motion passed.

Other

- Because Joshua Dyer is now chair of Church Council, he will be stepping down from his position on the Personnel Committee.

Next Meeting: April 26 at 6:00PM

Adjournment: Diann Moore moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:06PM. Sara Wynn seconded. The meeting was adjourned following a prayer given by Pr. Becky.