

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
August 23, 2022**

**In Attendance:** Pr. Becky David (Interim Sr. Pastor), Diann Moore (At Large), Marcella Armstrong (Spiritual Engagement), Joshua Dyer (Council Chair), Sara Wynn (Outreach and Mission), Susi Llewellyn (Red Wagon), Abby Stickell (Christian Education), Steve Schippers (Building and Finance), and Barb Guss (At Large) and Lindsey Spies (Minister of Faith Formation)

**Absent:** Heather Carlson (Clerk)

The meeting was called to order at 6:12PM following a prayer given by Lindsey Spies.

**Approval of**

**Minutes:** Susi Llewellyn moved to approve the minutes from the July meeting. Marcella Armstrong seconded. Motion carried.

**Quick**

**Reports:**

**Pastor's Report**

- Pr. Becky was on vacation so no report.

**Spiritual Engagement:**

Marcella Armstrong reported on the following:

SE Board had to postpone our meeting until today, August 23rd at 4:00 pm.

Topics that will be discussed:

Training confirmands and mentors in communion set-up and clean up.

Update on Christmas decorations

Kickoff Sunday

Future receptions - Lindsey's departure, October confirmation

Discussion about sanctuary pew cushions

Volunteer to schedule hosts and lectors

**Building and Finance:**

Steve Schippers reported:

Boiler Project: Working proceeding on pace for a 1 Oct completion date. We have had minor difficulties getting timely mechanics lien releases from JL Brady, but are finally getting these vital documents. The Shive Hatterly design was deficient in that it did not take into account location of the new heat exchangers vs the existing electrical outlets in the offices and red wagon. We have had to pay an outside contractor to move outlets.

Roof Leaks: I have identified a qualified contractor, but want to go up in the tower and on the office roof with Jeff before bringing the contractor in. Jeff and I will schedule an adventure.

Custodial Support during Weddings: BF requests of personnel that custodian duties include support and cleaning during weddings and major events. BF wishes to add custodial support to the wedding policy and the promises we make to couples. Since the custodial support needs to be familiar with the church, we do not believe this support can be contracted out on an hourly basis.

Air conditioning: Leaks in the offices were due to clogged drain pans, which have been cleared and the technician is performing other needed routine maintenance (belts and filters). The AC outage in

the office was due to malicious vandalism to the outside AC units on the south side of the offices. The unit shut offs have been zip tied and wired closed. Future vandals will need to bring tools with them.

Sanctuary Doors: BF member Bill Henning has identified a handyman who can take on refurbishing the doors in situ. We will start with the small right hand front door with the intent of completing the work in one day. If that is successful, we will move to the remaining entry doors, one by one and complete before November. The handyman will be assisted by volunteers to remove and reinstall the doors,

Contract reviews: We are working on Cintas and Millennium waste. In each case, it's obvious that we can cut monthly costs by 40 to 50% with no reduction in functionality. Once we have made the obvious changes to these suppliers contracts, we will send out quote requests to their competitors,

Kitchen Lease: proceeding with no problems, holding formal lease signing awaiting church future vote,

Grounds and mowing: volunteers are keeping the grass under control, but south side weeds required an intervention, BF has allocated funds to kill the grasses and cover with rock during this fall. Islands remain a sore point, and BF will discuss complete removal of the islands in this Thursday's meeting. Removal will simplify snow removal and reduce grounds care work.

### **Outreach and Mission**

Sara Wynn submitted the following report:  
O&M did not meet in August

Red Wagon Sunday - Red Wagon was celebrated this past Sunday, August 21st. Donated school supplies were presented.

World Relief Coat Drive - We will collect coats and winter accessories for World Relief in the month of September

### **Red Wagon**

Susi Llewellyn reported:

All is going well and that Red Wagon really appreciated the supplies given to them by the church members. Students do not bring their own supplies so these donations help to offset the cost to run Red Wagon.

### **Christian Education**

Abby Stickell submitted the following report:  
CE board met on 08/22/2022.  
The following items were discussed:

Sunday School - Lindsey shared a draft for a Sunday School schedule with teachers and shepherds that have agreed. Still looking for a couple more to help out.

Kickoff Sunday - We have decided on a donut food truck. Contract will be signed and sent in on 08/23. We have decided on a kickoff gift for the kiddos and those will be ordered this week.

Confirmation class - Trying to finalize a leader for the confirmands. Big commitment. Lindsey had ordered "study bibles" that seem to be a great fit for the youth.

Mitchel Room - Lindsey is reaching out to the current High School kids to see if they would like to meet and give some ideas on furniture etc. The old furniture has been removed and junked and currently there is nowhere for the kids to sit. This would be phase one of at least getting kids back in the room. Furniture purchase was approved by the Mitchel family.

Nursery - Needs a major deep clean and has a leaking toilet.

Resources and Logins - Lindsey has worked hard to get all information for the curriculum, logins, etc into the google classroom to leave CE in a good spot.

Lindsey Spies provided the following report:  
Minister of Faith Formation & Pastoral Care  
August 2022 Council Report

Hello Council,

A lot of planning and organizing has taken place with SS, Confirmation, Youth Group, Caregivers, Bible Study, Kick-Off Sunday, and filling in for worship. With me leaving on September 8th, I am working towards having each curriculum organized and ready for the leaders.

CE and I met and they are up to date. By the time I leave all the documents and resources will be uploaded into the CE Classroom. Carol Freeman will be the supplies coordinator but there will need to be someone to organize teachers and shepherds. I did talk to personnel about possible hiring for a SS Super Intendent instead of a Nursery Coordinator. SS would be their only focus and they could also be the person to sign volunteers up for the nursery as well. I see this being an 8-10 hours a week position.

Mary Newcomb is looking over the confirmation curriculum to decide if she has the time to coordinate confirmation. It's a BIG commitment. Brad Dye will be a small group leader for confirmation. Mary will need two more people to lead small groups. Students will be learning and growing their relationship with God through a program called Connect and be gifted study bible on Kick-Off Sunday. There are 13-15 kids.

Mentor information is slowly coming and I will have the mentors work through a UCC book called Building an Inclusive Church. This will give a faith base platform for two different generations to work through. I think this will bring a lot to the church and bring out some really good conversations and ideas. One of the small group leaders could be a Mentor Coordinator to communicate and plan any service projects.

Jeff Newcomb and Kim Fuller are heading up Youth Group. I planned for senior high only and they are using a curriculum called T.B.D - Think. Believe. Do. I'm excited to see where Youth Group can go. I think this curriculum will help youth see the bigger picture and work through a very messy world around faith. Faith is hard to stick to under 30.

Visiting Friends(Caregivers) will be in good hands and I have no doubt this group will continue visiting members. I plan to work with Pastor Becking to have everything up to date.

I'm forwarding the list of Adult Forums I started contacting to OM. I do hope they run with the list and start the Adult Forums back up. This is a great way to see what your community is doing and how the church can lend a hand. It also may help if you the congregation choose Massive Mission.

Women's Bible Study starts back up in September and when I have lunch with them on Wednesday we will see how they want to move forward. They are itching for something deeper and to be spiritually fed. BS is one of my favorite weekly events to happen. We talk about scripture in such a beautiful and realistic way. It is quite the group and FUN!

Thank you,  
Lindsey Spies  
Minister of Faith Formation & Pastoral Care

### **Leadership Circle:**

Joshua Dyer reported on the following:

Leadership Circle will be meeting on Thursday, August 25 before the Congregational meeting on Sunday August 28th. He wanted everyone to know that no matter what option was selected at the Sunday meeting we will start the process of calling a minister. Joshua also expressed concern that people are still trying to understand the three options. A long discussion followed on how to get the congregation to understand the options.

### **Old Business**

Joshua asked that we not cover Old Business.

### **New Business**

#### **Membership**

Johusa asked why potential members decided not to join. It was explained that they did not feel the First Congregational Church was inclusive.

#### **Personnel Liaison from Building and Finance**

This is an advisory position to give information when asked by Personnel and not as a voting member.

#### **Kickoff Budget**

Christian Education has the funds but no budget has been given to each of the boards for a while. It was expressed that the boards need this information every month.

#### **Lindsey's Position**

Lindsey suggested that a Sunday School Superintendent position be created to handle Sunday School and be sure the nursery is clean and open but not to staff the nursery. Parents could use the nursery during church or events but again it would not be staffed. Still looking for a leader for confirmation classes.

#### **Other**

Joshua brought up evening day care and Steve Schippers brought up enlarging the number of students enrolled in Red Wagon. Red Wagon was asked to provide a financial report at the next council meeting.

Members of Spiritual Engagement wanted to know what would happen to the bulbs if the islands are done away with in the parking lot. It seems that some of the members want the bulbs and plants. Also, Spiritual Engagement wanted to know how they could sign up to put information on the TV in the vestibule. Let the staff in the office know and they will take care of putting information on the screen.

**Next meeting:** September 27th, 2022 6pm Susi Llewellyn agreed to do the prayer.

**Adjournment:** All members moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15PM. All members seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diann Moore  
Clerk Pro Tem

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - AUGUST 2022

	AUGUST	AUGUST BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE	BUDGET TO DATE	FULL YEAR BUDGET	FULL YEAR FORECAST
Pledges	\$14,001	\$20,000	\$167,320	\$155,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
Offerings	794	4,000	13,306	30,000	50,000	20,000
Other Income	24,589	15,223	168,631	122,692	\$187,333	215,333
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	\$39,384	\$39,223	\$349,257	\$307,692	\$487,333	\$485,333
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$48,098	\$48,521	\$359,863	\$384,985	\$585,695	\$565,695
<b>NET INCOME/LOSS</b>	(\$8,713)	(\$9,298)	(\$10,606)	(\$77,293)	(\$98,362)	(\$80,362)