

UCC COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2022

Pastor Gretchen opened the meeting with prayer.

Members present: Pastor Gretchen, Carly Retterath, Lonna Augustadt, Dave Archer, Camille Grothier, Autum Eisenbraun, Dave Augustadt, Pamela Clark-Stein

Reflection - Carly read this month's reflection and said it is very fitting for our congregation as we are consistent in working together to get things accomplished.

The minutes of the October 25th meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Dave Archer, seconded by Pam, to accept the minutes. The motion carried, minutes were approved.

Financial Report: Dave Archer presented a draft of the 2023 budget. It has been put together by Chris Lennon, Frank Picard and Dana Jahner. He stated that Dana is overly conservative when estimating the giving portion and they didn't add in the Sponsor a Sunday so the numbers will differ slightly. Our big expense this year was the painting of the church.

Pastors Report: Pastor Gretchen reminded everyone to get their Annual Reports in to Autum by the end of the year. She reviewed a document "2023 Way Forward" that she and Carly put together which outlines strategic goals and measurable goals, as well as brainstorming ideas for the Council to work on this coming year. She asked that we take this home to read and bring back ideas for our next meeting. She asked the members to also take this document to their respective committees for their input. An important piece of this document is that we need to establish a mission partner now and focus on our service opportunities. Following discussion it was decided that our local mission partner will be the Dream Center/Adopt-a-Block, as we are already involved with Adopt-a-Block and we serve the Banquet twice a year. The suggestion was made that perhaps we can also get involved in the Dream Center's ministry as we have with Hay Creek Lodge. We also need to research how our parishioners can increase their scheduled giving. What is their preferred method of payment, PayPal, check, or cash. It was suggested to do a tutorial as how to use PayPal for those interested in using that method of payment and are not familiar with it. Within the "2023 Way Forward" is a list of monthly goals for the Council to work on throughout the year.

COVID policies and guidelines were discussed per updated CDC guidelines. They no longer recommend a particular amount of distancing. We will continue to provide masks and hand sanitizer in the foyer. We will remove the pew ropes and rearrange the fellowship hall so all tables are single tables again with 6 chairs per table. Two groupings of 3 tables with 9 chairs will continue to be used for those who still would like the

distancing. Vaccination information and COVID tests will still be provided by the bulletin board. Pastor Gretchen will update the website reflecting these changes.

Carly has been hearing from parishioners that they do not feel they know what is going on in the church. A list of the committees and its members will be placed on the website along with their contact information so members of the congregation can feel free to contact anyone with questions. Minutes of the Council meetings will be posted on our website, as well. Carly would also like to have the Council members share their impact stories as why the church is important to them and then move on to have members of the congregation share their stories to put in our monthly newsletter or record them so that this information can be put on our website. It was suggested we start this in January.

The Parish/Pastoral Relations Committee has two new members: Kirby Kruger and Ken Trona. Wanda Benson will also continue as a committee member.

Pam reporting for Marcia Patrie said the dates of the Banquet we will be serving are lunch on Saturday, February 11 and dinner on Thursday January, 20.

Carly reminded the Council that evaluations for Pastor Gretchen are due. She will be going through this with the Parish/Pastoral Relations Committee and will bring the summary back to the Council.

The next meeting will be held December 13 at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lonna Augustadt, Clerk