

UCC COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2022

Pastor Gretchen opened the meeting with prayer.

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

In the absence of our Moderator, Carly Retterath, Camille Grothier chaired our meeting.

The minutes of the November 22 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Dave Archer, seconded by Dave Augustadt, to accept the minutes. The motion carried, minutes were approved.

Financial Report: Dave Archer presented the latest draft of the 2023 budget for the Council's review. The Trustees added in the Sponsor A Sunday, which wasn't listed on the previous budget draft. No major building projects are planned for the coming year, just repair work that needs to be done on the front sign and that is in the budget. The only item that may change is building and grounds, as the insurance may need to be adjusted. Our general offering has been good but there is a downward trend and our expenses are going up from a facility standpoint. Dave Augustadt made a motion that the budget be accepted with changes which was seconded by Camille. Motion carried, budget was approved.

Camille pointed out that when this is presented to the congregation, we explain ways we can get out of our deficit, by fundraising activities, increasing general contributions to the church by the congregation, and other ideas the congregation may have to get back into a positive balance.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Gretchen reminded everyone to get their Annual Reports in to Autum by the end of the year. Pastor Gretchen will be leaving on vacation beginning December 25 through January 5. Hannah will serve as pulpit supply, Sunday December 25 and Camille will be serving as pulpit supply, Sunday, January 1.

Vision/Goal Setting Work: Pastor Gretchen asked the council to think about how we can approach our deficit and improve our losses. She also discussed a mission partnership for our church. At the November meeting the council decided that the Dream Center would be a possible choice we could partner with, as we volunteer serving the Banquet and partner with them through Jack's Food Pantry donating to the Adopt-a-Block program. Pastor Gretchen toured the Dream Center and does not feel we would have strong partnership possibilities with them, as the Banquet and Adopt-a-Block are separate entities housed in the Dream Center. She briefly discussed other areas we could partner with which is CATCH (Communities Acting Together For Change and Hope). It is in its

organizing stages with the purpose to help revitalize rural communities and work with refugee resettlement. This organization will be part of the North Plains Conference and funds will be available to us if we partner with them.

Ministry on the Margins and Bridges of Hope would be another partnership for us, however, their needs are just of clothing, personal items, things for folks post-prison entry into the community.

Committee Reports: Trustees-Dave Archer reported the committee members have been doing a lot of snow and ice removal on the sidewalks and walkways into the church. Due to the large accumulation of snow we have had this year we have exceeded our parking lot snow removal budget.

Deacons did not meet this month.

Christian Education is going well. There is bible study Monday evenings at 6 p.m. and Friday mornings at 8:30 a.m.; the Sunday School kids are making ornaments for the congregation to be handed out after church on Sundays.

Music: They tried to have a meeting but were lacking a quorum.

Stewardship and Mission: Did not meet.

Mayflower Circle: Camille reported they had a fun luncheon meeting with no business discussed.

The Senior Pastor Evaluation Review: The evaluation of Pastor Gretchen, which was put together with minimal responses from the council, congregation, church staff and the pastor self evaluation was reviewed. This is just feedback and a tool to have a discussion as a starting point. Carly and Ken Trana will discuss this with Gretchen and work on a solution to get more of the congregation engaged in their feedback.

One word: ulcer, excitement, logophobia, summer, cold, passionate.

The next meeting will be held January 24 at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lonna Augustadt, Clerk