

**First Congregational United Church of Christ
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 19, 2016**

Members Present: Michael Elick, Senior Minister; Elizabeth Durant, Assistant Minister; Al Horn, Moderator; Peace Young, Assistant Moderator; Cara Rothe, Business Manager; Bill Sweeney, Treasurer; Ross Runkel, Past Moderator; Karen Hurst, Member at Large; Margaret Baldwin, Member at Large; Christian Logerstedt, Member at Large

Guest: Sandra Hetzel, Bookkeeper

Al offered the opening prayer. The meeting was held in the downstairs classroom (Kiva).

Sharing from New Assistant Minister Rev. Elizabeth and Introductions of Council Members, Staff: ...

Minutes: Ross moved to approve the minutes from June 21st meeting as read. Karen seconded. Motion passed.

Adjustment to Accounts Receivable: Accounting will be moving to a deferred income method when reporting wedding and rental revenue in order to remedy difficulties with current budget forecasting methods. For example, wedding income was previously factored into accounts receivable when the wedding was scheduled (often months or even years in advance). In order to clarify and simplify our financials, beginning on August 1st all deposits will go into a liability account when the event is booked. Following the event, funds will be allocated into the proper "Building or Wedding Revenue" line item.

The building line items will fluctuate over the remainder of the year, but the treasurer and staff hope to have it completely sorted out by the first of the year (2017). This change will also help in creating more precise budget forecasting for future years. Thank you to Sanda, Cara, and Bill for facilitating this fix.

Ross made moved to approve this change as presented. Margaret seconded. Motion passed.

\$15,000 Donation: \$15,000 donation from former member.

***Letter from the donor's wife:** "My husband, Andrew, ...was a member of this church over 20 years ago. Everyone was so kind to him, as he was disabled, that he wanted to give some money to the church. This is a donation from him." - M. M. Jaros, Columbus, OH*

Bill motioned to move the money to our reserve fund. Ross seconded. Motion passed.

Cake Trust: \$46,441 unrestricted donation from the Cake Fund to First Congregational. Cara found old pledge book from 1890 in archives that include name of W.M. Cake. Ralph Cake Jr. was grandson of W.M. Cake. This connection might offer us the potential opportunity for storytelling in the church, presentation to congregation, etc.

Peace Pole: (item postponed last month) Council members each shared their perspectives on the erection of the pole.

Concerns were voiced about historical vandalism in the portoco. These conditions shouldn't stop the project and yet they offer some consideration for the potential consequences. Questions were asked about the objective of the pole and if there were ways to express our welcome in other symbols with a more personalized aesthetic.

Council members considered the need to solidify our church's message before moving forward with a project like this one.

Logistics for the installation of the pole were also discussed. To prevent theft, a permanent Peace Pole would need to be coalesced into a mass of concrete. Conversation ensued about the possible redesign of the bare portoco that includes pieces of art (both stationary and mobile). Council will revisit this as a possible new agenda item at future meetings.

Council would like to continue this conversation to increase involvement of families in the design of the portoco. This offers the opportunity to express how the new governance system is helping us generate and include a diversity of opinions and ideas from the congregation as it is being implemented.

Church Council Policies:

Al Horn, Margaret Baldwin, Karen Hurst, and Peace Young are working on policy development for record keeping, financial responsibilities, selection committees, pastoral relations committees, the holding of executive council sessions, stewardship, etc.

Storage of Information -- How do we archive our information for congregational consumption?

- Concern over sharing critical information on accessible, public webspaces
- Suggestion given to share bylaws and policies and procedures on church website for easy access to congregants
- Potential to create flexibility in policy and procedure wording so we are able to omit some critical or confidential information to prevent its publication

Availability of minutes is important to council members for the ease of accessibility to the congregation and for proper record keeping.

Communications Team: Presentation of new website from Christian Logerstedt. Council agreed to give him and the communication team faithful jurisdiction to evaluate and launch a new “drag and drop,” user friendly site using *squarespace.com*.

Safety Team Meeting: Unbudgeted \$3,000 dollars went into purchasing radios for improved communication and safety among building users, especially on Sundays.

E-vote proctored 07-15-2016. Motion passed on 07-15-2016.

Cara and ONA will continue to develop the Code Rainbow Book that was distributed in the bulletin on Sunday, July 17th.

Treasurer’s Report: June Financials are being tweaked.

- Net liquidity is about \$1.2 million as of end of June.
- Brown Grants came in July at \$111,560
- These grants increased net liquidity to about \$1.3 million
- Revenues and Expenses for the first 6 months
 - Revenue down by \$42,490 (does not include unexpected dollars from Cake bequest)
 - Expenses are under budget by \$30,739
 - Overall, not including unbudgeted gifts, we are \$11,751 over budget
 - Cake bequest of \$46,449 puts us ahead
 - These numbers do not reflect the recent Jaros bequest of 15,000

Do Good Multnomah has run its course essentially on a breakeven basis as budgeted. Council celebrated their partnership.

Minister’s Report: Do Good had to leave our facility for a larger space due to funding restrictions. First Congregational is currently working on filling the chapel space with a new shelter. Michael is working with mayor to find a group that can run it because we are presently unable to do it on our own. There’s a chance that it could eventually be Do Good again. Please offer ideas to Michael if you have any leads. “Space is available.”

Hector Lopez has been ill, but is back and will be working with First Congregational doing interfaith organizing along with support from Wajdee Said from the Muslim Educational Trust. His contract is still being negotiated.

Visioning: Building small groups and talking circles in the fall. Council members were asked to help develop the program.

Rev. Elizabeth offered a closing prayer

Meeting Adjourned