

Links to additional information:

<https://www.csg.org/2022/09/07/the-farm-bill-what-will-2023-bring/>

<https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/news/minnesota/minnesota-ag-leaders-ask-that-safety-nets-remain-in-place-in-2023-farm-bill>

<https://extension.umn.edu/business/farm-bill#estimates-for-arc-co-and-plc-by-county-2674663>

<https://minnesotareformer.com/2023/01/18/u-s-house-agriculture-leaders-discuss-anti-hunger-measures-in-upcoming-farm-bill/>

<https://www.klobuchar.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2022/7/klobuchar-focusing-on-2023-farm-bill>

First Congregational United Church of Christ Grand Marais Board of Directors Meeting January 17, 2023 5PM-7PM

Attending: Tom Yuhasey, Kevin LeVoir, Carol Bennett, John Bottger, Bruce Tyler, Carol Winter, Jenny Delfs, Enno Limvere

Call to Order - 5 pm by Jenny Delfs as Tom was signing in remotely from afar
Jenny will take minutes

Mission Statement reading - Bruce

Joys and Concerns

Question - "When in the last weeks have you felt close to God?" and opening prayer
- Pastor Enno

Communication agreement - Jenny

IMMEDIATE AND URGENT BUSINESS/HOUSEKEEPING

VII. Acknowledgement of Dec minutes online **approval**. Published in Jan newsletter

VIII. Proposed current agenda reviewed, additions made, and **approved**

IX. Financial Report - Kevin

1. Pledge update - we have 26 households pledging for ~ \$85,000 to date. Last year at this time we had 37 households pledging with ~\$100,000. Stewardship committee will make gentle inquiries
2. Kevin will send out 2022 reports to 2022 donors by the end of the month.
3. Current financial status. Reviewed reports which are available in the office. Cash flow is on the low side currently. Kevin is watching it as he pays bills and salary. Over all we ended 2022 paying out ~\$3000 more than we took in. Need to collect about 9000/ month to cover usual operating expenses. Discussion. Vote to approve financial report - **approved**.
4. Proposed Budget for 2023 reviewed. Thanks to Pete Harris for side to side comparison to previous years expenses. Increase in budget due to increase in

health care insurance expenses, more for building and grounds.

Discussion. Recognize that the budget is greater than current pledges and may need to be adjusted. "leap of faith" as last year. Vote to approve proposed budget - **approved**. Kevin will be scheduling listening sessions with congregation members with questions/concerns about the budget. Link to proposed budget will be on mail chimp and paper copies available at church.

5. Kevin has prepared information for UCC yearbook again this year and will send
- VII. Newsletter articles due January 24 for the February 2023 newsletter - Carol Bennett will write an article about the upcoming farm bill.
Next meeting Feb 14 5-7pm -(none of us are traditional romantics) likely Zoom

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

- XII. NEW - Pastor/Board annual review - wording of Bruce's summary of meeting 1/10 mutual ministry review was reviewed by Board (Pastor Enno leaving meeting for this discussion). **Report approved** with minor edits and will be signed by Moderator and Pastor in the next week and included in the Pastor's employment file.
- XIII. NEW - Also in that discussion, the Board **approved an additional Sunday off yearly** - making that 5 Sundays off /yr

NEW - Hunter Maclauran joined the meeting at 615pm with a request/proposal to rent the South room and separate entry space for a privately run daycare. She has worked at Y daycare in the past, managing both infant and toddler rooms but has not run her own daycare. Hours would be 730AM-530pm. Room would need furniture cleared out. She would be the sole provider for 6-10 kids. She has equipment and is getting a license. Space is all she is lacking.

After Hunter left the meeting, the Board had a brief conversation re pros and cons going forward with this. Plan f/u meeting after church on Sunday to look at space. Plan follow up Zoom meeting in 2 weeks - John to set up. All Board members will send their pro and con thoughts via email before that meeting. Tabled decision for now.

- XV. Pastor's Report - written report reviewed.
 1. New hires needed for office manager (Nancy resigning in April) and cleaner (Nick resigning in May). Hiring team - Enno, John, Jenny - Enno will set meeting time.
 2. South African choir coming to MN and could come to GM to give a concert. Enno will send details to Board members . Need to work out local details, like dates and discussion with other churches in hopes of helping with stipend and housing for the event.
 3. Requested approval from the Board to have indoor eating together events -

Approved. Hoping to do something to celebrate Fat Tuesday at the beginning of Lent in Feb - Carol Bennett will check in with the food team about this.

- XV. OLD - Annual meeting 1/29 preparation - review agenda
- 4. Jenny will send Tom the intro script she has used in the past couple years of meetings for him to amend and use as he sees fit.
- 5. Vote on the Maple Hill Property will include a presentation from Sandy Stover who has been working on the Cemetery Board, a vote to vacate the previous (and unactionable) congregational decision to sell the property, and then a final vote to lease the property to the Maple Hill Cemetery Board.
- 6. Mission Statement rewrite is close to done but the proposed text was not ready before the 2 week before meeting time window. At the meeting, the committee working on this plans to present their progress to date, thank the congregation for their participation thus far and look for more input. Not ready yet. Keep talking. Tom will amend the agenda accordingly.
- 7. Only other vote is to approve the proposed budget.
- 8. Committees need to get reports to Nancy Backlund by 1/24 for annual report
OLD - Nametags - These have arrived. Need a sub committee to work out how to use and prepare. Kevin, Bruce, Carol W. Enno will set meeting

CHURCH LIFE/updates

Pastoral Relations - meeting quarterly with Pastor

Finance committee – weekly updates to congregation re actual/ budget

Stewardship committee – collecting pledges

Children and Youth life/faith formation - upcoming Pizza and Social Justice lock-in
1/20, 1 kid in Sunday School

Memorial Committee

Building and Grounds Team – meeting regularly

Outreach – WOW, collaborations with Arrowhead Indivisible, Climate meeting, Refugee Resettlement, Food Shelf, Xmas collection for DomianoRooted and Rising - new book study starting

Worship Committee – meeting monthly

Standing Grievance Committee: Delfs, Mattice, Bennett – have not been needed to date

Food Team

ADJOURN - 710 pm (because we all we hangry)