

1. Facilitate adopting a new Mission Statement.
2. Encourage fellowship
3. Celebrate many ways people in this congregation are involved in outreach in the community and beyond.

The Board has been taking turns offering news of the community during the worship service. To meet our 3rd goal, we hope to celebrate specific outreach that folks are involved in or passionate about during this time. Please let a Board member know if you have something you want to highlight.

In the spirit of the first 2 goals and in search of spring, let's have a **Potluck Salad Bowl Lunch Sunday, April 16** after church service. We can gather round tables and discuss the mission statement together. If you can't bring something for the "pot", bring the luck. Bring your ideas and comments.

Our new mission statement current draft reads as follows:

The mission of First Congregational United Church of Christ, Grand Marais is to
Welcome all.
Explore the mysteries of faith.
Celebrate and honor Creation.
Work for justice and peace.
Create community.

We hope to vote on a new mission statement at the summer congregational meeting.



Also... Jeff and I would like to host the rebirth of **Loaves and Hot dish Potluck Suppers**. You are all invited to join Jeff and I at our home at 401 5th Ave W in Grand Marais on **Wednesday, April 12**. Gather at 5:30 pm and eat at 6pm. Stay as long as you can/want. This was something we enjoyed hosting pre-pandemic and are anxious to have gatherings in our house again.

First Congregational United Church of Christ Board of Directors Meeting Minutes March 21, 2023 on Zoom

Present: Carol Bennett, Jen Delfs, Kevin Levoir, Bruce Tyler, Carol Winter, Tom Yuhsey; Pastor Enno Limvere, ex-officio. Absent: John Bottger

Call to Order, 5:04 p.m., by Tom Yuhasey

- Minutes taken by Bruce Tyler
- Tom Y read Mission Statement
- Joys and Concerns shared
- Pastor Enno posed his Question: When did you feel God's presence in a challenging situation?
- Tom Y read the Communications Agreement

Immediate Business

- All acknowledged approval of February Minutes
- March agenda: Jen D moved acceptance, Kevin L seconded, approved unanimously
- Kevin L gave Financial report: February closed with about \$6000 surplus; March expected to close with a surplus as well. The endowment, as expected, has lost value as the market continues to be volatile. Building use donations provide modest but helpful ongoing contributions to the budget. Kevin resolved an issue with the MN Department of Revenue concerning a reporting requirement; the church does not need to report income at present. Report acceptance moved by Jen D, seconded by Carol B. Unanimous.
- Jen Delfs will submit newsletter article, due Friday, March 24.
- Next board meeting Tuesday, April 18, 2023.

Old and New Business

- Pastor's Report sent separately. Very pleased about how the Congregation continues to be involved in community affairs, worked together for Bob Carter's Memorial service, and engaged in worship and community-building experiences.
- Pastor Enno asked for clarification on additional Sunday off request. Yes, it was approved. Tom Y to make addendum to Minister's Employment agreement.
- Plymouth Church Choir coming June 9-12. Will lodge in our building, sing at service on June 11.
- Pride Weekend events, June 9-11 in Grand Marais.

•Mutual Ministry Goals:

Mission Statement revision: Plans forming to have another listening session, possibly in conjunction with a potluck lunch following services, on Sunday, April 16 (week after Easter) in order to finalize a statement to present to the June Congregational Meeting for approval.

Community Building: Additional community potlucks, Game Nights, etc., to be planned

Outreach: Continuing collaboration with MN Interfaith Power and Light, CCLEP, Zero Waste, Earth Day Fair on April 22. Request for someone other than Pastor Enno to convene the local MNIPL chapter.

•Child Care/Nursery Proposal. Changes still need to be made in the lease agreement concerning type of business, insurance coverage per our insurance company representative. To be forwarded to the consulting lawyer.

Our expenses would include legal fees of approximately \$500 for writing the lease, annual property taxes of ~\$1400, insurance rider of \$138 to cover a childcare facility, plus a share of the utilities.

Jen D moved to "proceed with the lease starting at \$800 per month, with the provision that there be yearly increases over 3 years to bring the rent to \$1000, the estimated local market rate value." This should be negotiated with the childcare provider and written into the lease.

Motion seconded by Carol W. Unanimous approval (including one reluctant approval).

•Update on Custodian, Office Manager Position searches.

Custodian: Mary Jane and Aria have agreed to resume custodial duties through the summer. No formal interview needed since they are former employees and familiar with the requirements.

Advertising for permanent custodian will need to start in July for September employ.

Office Manager: One response to ad, but no follow-up from respondent. Nancy Backlund agreed to serve through April 14. After that, will need someone to handle office duties.

Jen D moved to increase the wage offer to \$20/hour. Carol B seconded. Unanimous.

Sunday Announcements needed to prospect for applicants.
Kevin L agreed to be supervisor for these positions.

•Recruiting Delegates to Minnesota Conference Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting June 9-10 at College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN
Looking for 2 adult delegates, one youth. Pastor Enno is on planning committee.
Theme is Protecting the Environment. (Bruce is interested in going)
Sunday Announcements needed

•Request for Tech Equipment

Pastor Enno requested the purchase of a condensing microphone, a bluetooth speaker, and 2 cables for use in audio-visual ministry. The board was polled prior to the meeting and approved the expenditure of ~\$230. Kevin noted the funds should come from the Sanctuary Fund. Kevin moved, Carol W seconded. Unanimous.

Committee Business

- Pastoral Committee_ fully staffed now: Jodie Yuhasey, Ann Russ, Mike Carlson, Sandy Stover.
 - Finance: Weekly updates continue to be sent on deposits, etc.
 - Stewardship: Letters sent to previous donors who have not pledged. One response.
 - Kevin has information from National Church and Banco on ways to conduct a successful stewardship campaign. Plan to use in fall.
 - Discussion of a Time and Talent survey as part of Stewardship—outlining opportunities to serve within congregation and in outreach; current participation or interest. Also need for Procedures Descriptions for many worship and food service activities for consistency and not relying on one individual who knows the ropes.
 - Children and Youth: Last family day was successful, plans for possible middle school day end of April or early May. Many youth are currently involved with the Spring Play so not able to attend regularly. Need to have Youth write/do announcements at services for their Fundraiser Shares for the summer trip. Reservation money due by June 15.
 - Memorial Committee: a donation was received in memory of Bob Carter
 - Outreach: Rooted and Rising- planters in collaboration with Community Gardeners, tree and shrub saplings available around May 11. Announcements closer to time.
 - Concerns with the Food Shelf, about rotting fresh foods. Only dry goods can be kept in the main room. Fresh produce must remain in the back room and be monitored.
 - Suggest we install a covered compost bin for disposal of such items. Bruce to investigate if still available from Soil and Water District.
 - Building and Grounds: North light switch needs replacing—expensive, multi-circuit type.
 - * Architect search: 3 interested replies from 7 Requests for Proposal.
 - Worship Committee: Wonderful to have both Linda Noble and Ann Russ on this! “Our Angels!”
 - Food Team: Kudos for a great event for the Bob Carter memorial. Many hands made it work.
- Adjourned: 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Tyler