

Consistory Minutes

September 12, 2022

Members Present: Mark Chapinski, Paul Plantz, Rebecca Booth, Jeff Mihalko, Darrell Ray, Andrew Dembowski, Cindy Huss, Lisa Gargas, Mike Sondergeld, Thadd Huss

Staff Present: Pastor Don Giesmann, Jane Bowes, Office Assistant, Marsha Mihalko, Treasurer

Members Absent: Judy Peters, Sheila Tucker, Denise Melter, Bob Banky, Kim Harsanje

The meeting was called to order by Mark Chapinski, President at 6:35 p.m.

Cindy Huss led with **Devotion and Prayer**, titled;

“Six Truths to Encourage You During Pastoral Leaving & Transition”

- 1) God is always with you,
- 2) God is in control, (God works all things to the council of His will)
- 3) God plans good out of this transition,
- 4) It's ok to weep,
- 5) Ministry must go on,
- 6) The church must not scatter.

Previous Meeting Minutes: A few moments were taken to review the minutes of the August 8, 2022 meeting. Rebecca Booth made the motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Cindy Huss. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report:

- The Genoa Clergy Association Thanksgiving Service will be held on Monday, November 21st from 7-8 p.m. at St. John's. No food or refreshments will be needed. Pastor Rachel Widdowson, the new Methodist minister will be preaching.
- Linda Schmidt has offered to organize a retirement dinner if it is catered.
- Thank Fred Huss for trimming trees, bushes, and edging around the parsonage. Trustees may come anytime to inspect the parsonage.
- Confirmation class had 10 students on September 11th Rally Day (11th student able to attend every other Sunday)
- Pastor Don stated he is willing to help find a new pastor.

Mark Chapinski read a thank you card from Rhonda Banky for the gifts she received for 40 years of teaching Sunday School.

Treasurer's Report: Marsha Mihalko proceeded with reviewing the Treasurer's Report for the consistory. Noted that two weeks of July offering are included in August, along with the Rummage Sale proceeds. Also, Bobbi Kehlmeier at The Nurturing Center did receive the grant money and gave a retention bonus of \$1000 to employees (must stay to end of May) and a \$1.00 per hour raise. Mike Sondergeld made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and to pay the bills. The motion was seconded by Darrell Ray, and motion was passed.

Trustee Check In:

- Roof over the church repaired by Seagate, under warranty.
- Paving in parking lot may be mid or late September on Bergman's schedule, Elderlife will pay.
- Discussion regarding possible water in the crawl space.
Note: Mike checked the crawl space September 13th and it is dry!
- Another bat was removed from the Fellowship Hall/gym by a Nature's Nursery volunteer, assisted by Fred Huss.

Deacon's Check In: Everything is going ok.

Elder's Check In: Nothing to update.

Worship Team check in: There has not been a meeting

Christian Ed Update: Andy Dembowski was present and updated us

- Rally Day was September 11th.
- Trick or Trunk date, October 29
- Need to set a date for “Hanging of the Greens,” perhaps before the Genoa Clergy Association Service on November 21st?

Evangelism Update:

- Rebecca Booth shared several logo designs with the consistory. Those logs were voted on by members of the consistory narrowing it down to 3 or 4 logos to present to the congregation to vote on.
- Rebecca also brought up the possibility of a trip to The Ark – as perhaps possible a fundraiser – and maybe a 3-day trip. More info to follow.
- Shall we do a Veteran’s Day Breakfast here? Or possible twice a year, for instance on Memorial Day and Veteran’s Day. After some discussion Rebecca will talk to Judy Peters and Sheila Tucker and then extend the invitation to Joel Hirt at the Legion.

Old Business:

- Wreath and Grave Blanket making?
 - Would it be possible for the Ladies’ Craft Night to decorate the wreaths and or grave blankets that would be already made up?
- The yews along the church, are they going to get pulled out? Discussion followed. Mike Sondergeld, Fred Huss, and Thadd Huss will get to it and get other volunteers.

New Business:

- Kiwanis use of Fellowship Hall on Monday, October 24th in the evening in the event of rain for their Halloween Parade was approved.
- Back Bay Mission Trip October 22, - 28, 2023
 - We have a few members of the church planning on attending next year’s Back Bay Mission Trip; along with a few members going with another church this October. (after the meeting, it was disclosed that no St. John’s members are going in 2022)
- Mark would like access to Zoom on a regular basis. A short discussion followed; and it was decided to get signed up to use Zoom. It would be helpful as we begin our Pastoral Search. Rebecca/Jane to coordinate.
- Pam Ferrara would like access to the church laptop she used while employed here.
 - Mark Chapinski will put her personal items from the computer onto a flash drive and give the flash drive to her.

Pastor Don Giesmann Retirement:

- A written proposal was given to Pastor Don outlining the plans for the transition through his retirement. Pastor Don submitted a counter proposal.
- At this point, Pastor Don left the room and much discussion followed. A unanimous vote took place for the November 20th date.
- Pastor Don was called back into the room and it was mutually agreed upon:
 - Pastor Don will preach through November 20th, 2022; and have the remainder of the year off to use his vacation time. Pastor Don will also have use of the parsonage through mid- January of 2023.
 - The Consistory would like to give a nice retirement party to honor Pastor Don’s service to St. John’s UCC properly before the holiday season; Retirement Party is planned for November 20th, 2022.
 - Pastor Don asks for everyone to keep an ear open and refer to him of any available housing possible in Northern Toledo, or the Monroe, Michigan area.

Carnival Games: Darrell Ray has a friend who is willing to donate to our church the carnival games we have used the past several years for the VBS carnival. He is a carpenter, and these are nice handmade games. Discussion over storage of the games followed. It was decided to accept the donation. The only stipulation is if the church no longer wants the carnival games to use, to let him know before they are given to anyone else.

There being no other business at this time, a motion was made by Mike Sondergeld to adjourn the meeting, and was seconded by Darrel Ray. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.