

St. John's UCC Consistory Board Minutes  
January 10, 2022

- Sheila Tucker, President; called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
- Members Present: Sheila tucker, Mark Chapsinzki, Jeff Mihalko, Paul Planz, Bob Banky, Bev Hoffman, Denise Melter, Bobbi Kehlmeier, Thadd Huss, Cindy Huss, and via Google Meet: Lisa Gargas and Rebecca Booth.
- Staff Present: Pastor Don Giesmann, Pastor Dawn Balduf, Treasurer Marsha Mihalko, Director of Christian Education, Pam Ferrara, Office Administrator, Jane Bowes.
- Devotions done by Sheila Tucker. Devotion, "Have a Good Day," and Prayer, "Create in me a clean heart, O God".
- Review of December 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes, Amended to include that Pastor Dawn Balduf did submit a report, but it was not received. Motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Mark Chapinski, seconded by Cindy Huss and was passed unanimously.
- Senior Pastor's Report was quickly reviewed by Pastor Don Giesmann.
  - Pastor Don announced Richard Reeder has passed away, and his burial will be this Thursday at Clay Township cemetery @ 11:30; with a memorial service to be held at a later date here at the church. His wife Marilyn is still in the hospital, both suffered from Covid. Also, their son, Dr. Ken Reeder has been in contact regarding the possibility of some type of counseling support for the church.
  - Pastor Don as us to remember in prayer those affected by Covid pandemic.
  - Christmas Program was held last Sunday.
  - Stacey Depner began her interim as choir director last Sunday.
  - Briann Edwards, previous interim choir director; intends to continue singing in the choir, perhaps two Sundays a month.
  - Storage in church and Nurturing Center is at a premium. Pam and some of our youth cleaned the stage Saturday and while here cleaning and organizing; the Fed Ed driver had an episode which necessitated Pam calling the rescue squad.
  - Pastor Don hand a handout entitled, "Change Just Ahead," regarding Covid and the rapidly changing world due to Covid is affecting churches, and suggestions of how to deal with change. (copy attached) Interesting note: Attendance one Sunday a month is now considered being an active church member. Pastor Don reassured us that God continued to use people in different ways, as always.
  - Pastor Don had a second handout entitle, "The Great Church Reopening", outlining the many events that are coming back into session throughout St. John's church. (attached)
- Assistant Pastor Dawn Balduf passed out copies of her Resignation Letter regarding her position. Pastor Dawn reassured us that she has given much thought and prayer into this decision and feels at this time she needs to step away from the position. Pastor Dawn's resignation will be effective February 28, 2022. (see letter attached)
  - Pastor Don led the group in prayer for Pastor Dawn in this next phase of her life.
- Pam Ferrara, Christian Education Director reviewed her report and handed out her Quarterly Schedule. (see attachments)
- Bobbie Kehlmeier reviewed The Nurturing Center Report. The Nuturing Center is doing very well with it's highest enrollment ever and ending 2021 with a balance of \$61,561 in it's checking account. (see attached report)
- Marsha Mihalko, Treasurer review the Treasurer's Report.

- A question was asked as to whether it would be good to speak with Edward Jones Investments regarding our investments. Mark Chapinski felt this may be a good idea. Some discussion followed on low risk investment for churches.
- A motion was made by Bob Banky to accept the Treasurer's Report and approve paying of the bills. The motion was seconded by Denise Melter and passed unanimously.
- The meeting then went on to Old Business:
  - Stay Depner has been appointed as interim choir director.
- New Business:
  - Shall we send a thank you letter and a donation to Nature's Nursery for their removal of the bat in our fellowship hall?
    - A suggestion was made that we could possibly take a freewill offering for Nature's Nursery.
    - Mark Chapinski made a motion to take a freewill offering and the consistory will match the freewill offering (up to \$300). The motion was seconded by Christine Wocitzky and was passed unanimously.
    - Sheila Tucker will send her video of the bat rescue, we will reach out to Nature's Nursery to collect some information, and then we will present information regarding bats, \$25,000 fine per bat, etc. to the congregation.
  - Treasurer needs a 3-4 drawer locking file cabinet.  
Is there one available in the church that is not currently being used?
    - Yes, there is one available in the Youth Room the treasurer may use that locks..
    - Denise Melter suggested possible scanning of records to save space.
  - Slate of Officers for Election:
    - Mark Chapinski was hoping volunteers would come forward:
    - Summary:
      - Need a Vice President
      - Need a Recording Secretary
      - One Elder position is open
        - Cindy Huss, Denise Melter, Lisa Gargas stay
      - One Deacon position is open
        - Andrew Dembowski offered to be put on ballot for Deacon
        - Thad Huss and Rebecca Booth stay
      - One Trustee position is open
        - Paul Planz and Bob Banky stay
        - Jeff Mihalko offered to be put on ballot for Trustee

It was suggested to accept who we have now and fill in the blanks by January 30<sup>th</sup> annual meeting
- An Amplex Quote was received for an upgrade to fiber optic cable to increase 100 x's the upload speed and 10 x's the download speck for \$20 month more than we are paying now. Some discussion followed; at which time it was decided to table this decision until more information is available regarding same.
- Mark Chapinski asked for input regarding the thought of reaching out to Lynn Warren, who used to be a janitor here; to see if he may be interested in doing so again. Mark thought it may save money over using the cleaning service we

currently use, and it would have the added benefit of having someone here at all times. Some discussion followed. Mark will follow up.

- Mark Chapinski feels the safe should be recalibrated to reset the combination, and then limit the people having the combination to Marsha and Jane. Jane to look into what it would take to get combination reset.
- Mark Chapinski also recommends that a new policy for loose cash received in the Sunday offering should be counted and written on a paper how much in cash is loose by who collects the offering each Sunday. Mark wants this to start ASAP, adding to Deacon's list of duties.
- The additional minutes from the December 13, 2021 consistory meeting after staff were asked to leave were distributed. (see attached)
  - Motion was made by Bev Hoffman to accept the minutes, seconded by Jeff Mihalko. The motion passed unanimously.
- The Annual Budget for 2022 was then distributed.
  - The budget will be adjusted for 2 months, January and February for Pastor Dawn's salary, then reduced. Mark Chapinski would like to keep that amount in the budget.
  - Motion was made by Denise Melton to hire Stacey Depner for 3 Sundays per month at \$100 per Sunday (Stacey would like one Sunday a month off so she can stay active in her own church (possible 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday)); and the motion was seconded by Bev Hoffman. The motion passed unanimously.
  - Denise Melter offered to record the minutes for the annual meeting on January 30, 2022.
  - Sheila Tucker reviewed for Jane what would be needed for the Annual Meeting Packet.
    - Ballots for slate of officers
    - Two sets of minutes into packets
      - Last year's special meeting
      - This year's special meeting
      - Budget (to be voted on)
      - All reports
  - Mark Chapinski wants a Power Point Presentation of the Budget for the Annual Meeting- Marsha will work on this
    - Will also need someone to gather and count ballots
- Marsha Mihalko read a letter from Adam Mihalko upon the end of his term as Deacon on Consistory Board, thanking the church for the opportunity to serve the church. Peace and blessings to all.
- Mark Chapinski thanks all for their service on the Consistory Board, especially Sheila Tucker, as President.
- Sheila Tucker told all she enjoyed serving the last two years on consistory. Sheila also said that she can't thank everyone enough for all their prayers over the months as they faced different health issues.
- Pastor Dawn Balduf led the closing prayer.
- Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.