Congregational United Church of Christ

Ministry Council Minutes for January 2, 2025

Present: Pastor Rob, Moderator: Scott Olson, Vice Moderator: Signa Meyers, Ministry of Stewardship: Marilyn Kostrzak, Council Secretary: Jenn Abing, Ministry of Faith Development: Jenn Abing, Ministry of Service: Mary Janness. Ministry of Spiritual Life: Terri Flesburg. Members at Large: Connie Ragazzi, Sue Dollhopf

Absent: Ministry of Faith Development: Dawn Welling; Members at Large: Sherri Jischke

Guest: Kevin Shumann

Scott Olson opened the meeting and offered devotional from Holy Moments. Joy and Concerns were shared

Reports from the ministries were received via email prior to the meeting. The minutes from the December meeting were approved.

Updates from the Ministries:

***Ministry of Spiritual Life: Terri Flesburg**

*105 in attendance for the 4pm; and 41 in attendance for the 11pm Christmas Eve Services.
*Next meeting January 12th

***Ministry of Service: Mary Janness**

*Next meeting January 12th
*Habitat for Humanity – putting together a small group.
*Summer monthly donation addition – Sleep in Heavenly Peace
*World Relief will be doing Mission Moment January 5
*Multi-generational Hometown Mission trip for 2025; discussion was had, more to come at the next Ministry of Service. This is a 2 step learning process – youth take part in the hometown mission and then the following year go outside of the community.
*Discussion and decision made that Service Sunday will not be held at Smith Park, but rather at the church.

***Ministry of Faith Development: Jenn Abing**
*Next meeting January 23
*Could use another teacher or 2 for 2nd-5th grade – Let Alanna know if interested
*33 Youth participated in the Christmas Program – Special Thank you to Sherri for Directing!
*Youth Group meets every 2nd Friday of the month – could use 1 or 2 more volunteers. Let Alanna know if interested.
*First ever Cookie Walk was a success – Raised almost $600! Next year could be even bigger now that people know how it works! 😊
*Good Suggestions – use ½ of Fellowship Hall for refreshment time like would normally happen in the lounge following worship. Set up a few tables, coffee etc… for fellowship and then offer the Cookie Walk as well. Seems like congregants and guests missed out on the fellowship after the Christmas Program.

***Ministry of Stewardship: Marilyn Kostrzak**

*Met December 17th

*Balanced budget - $161,827.70 in pledges thus far.

Buildings & Ground Items:

*Replaced the Kitchen Exhaust Hood, put in a timer on the parking lot lights, fireplace in the lounge has been fixed $200.

*Stewardship purchased a RICHOH IM C4500 Printer for $3200 (lightly used) from Complete Office Technology Solutions, Appleton. Maintenance Agreement is .007/page blank ink, and .045/page color ink; includes all parts, labor, and toners. Delivery Tuesday afternoon, January 7, 2025.

*Agenda for the next few months – doors have been getting broke; cost of possibly adding cameras.

*Discussion about keeping our church safe: Security – lock the back doors in the evening when meetings are in progress to stay safe. Add CO2 Detectors? Add Smoke detectors connected to security. Add more outdoor lighting in the front of the church?

*For the kitchen – remember that when purchasing things for the kitchen: If it's edible, the funds come out of Church Dinners. If it's not edible, the funds come out of supplies.

Thank you to Kevin Schumann for all that he does!

***Pastor's Updates:**

*Thank you for a wonderful, beautiful Christmas Services.

Old Business:

*LakeEdge is all up-to-date – nothing we are waiting on. 2025 Agreement has been signed.

*Live Nativity went very well, will need a new cress for next year; requesting an easy-up version from 4Imprint.

New Business:

*Neenah News Communication – update the ad to show Congregational United Church of Christ; can we add Neenah-Menasha? Or can we purchase a larger ad?

Action Items:

*Signa – Design 3 t-shirt options that capture the "church by the lake" concept and have the congregation vote on them.

*Kevin – Coordinate with Connie, Sherri to propose a plan for organizing the church corridors and present it to the group. Kevin would like to create an Interior Decorating Group and ask more individuals with ideas and possibly more to join the Buildings & Grounds. Kevin would like to meet on a regular basis with the group interested and assign tasks.

*Kevin – Contact the Restore to see if they can pick up the desks

*Kevin – Pursue options for a commercial-grade luxury vinyl plank flooring for the hallways.

*Kevin - Research and purchase appropriate recycling bins for the kitchen, narthex, and hallways.

kitchen and classrooms laminate flooring costs – Kevin

*Signa – Coordinate with Randy to address the technology issues for Zoom and improve the setup for virtual meetings.

*Signa – Advertise the pop-up adult education event on Facebook. (will need additional details from Pastor Rob)
*Sue – Order a cake for Staff Appreciation

Future Projects:
*Open and Affirming – "Now What" Adult Class
*Owl? Wise Congregation

Calendar Review:

January 5 – Taking down of the greens
January 10 – Youth Group 6pm-8pm
January 19 -- Budget Hearing
January 26 - Budget Hearing
January 31 – Parent's Night Out – 6pm-9pm

February 2 – Annual Meeting & Scout Sunday
February 2 – Silent Auction – runs through March 2nd
February 6 – Council Meeting
February 9 – Souper Bowl of Caring
February 16 – Camp Sunday

March 5 – Ash Wednesday
March 9 – Staff Appreciation Day
March 6 – Council Meeting
March 10 – Pizza Ranch Fundraiser – 4pm-8pm
March 14 – Youth Group – 6pm-8pm
March 16 – Irish Lunch – 11:30am-1:30pm (Cross Generational Activity)

April 3 – Council Meeting
April 6 – Congregational Meeting to elect new officers
April 11 – Youth Group – 6pm-8pm
April 13 – Cinnamon Roll Sale
April 17 – Maundy Thursday
April 20 – Easter Sunday
April 27 – Teacher Appreciation Day

May 2 – Council Meeting
May 4 – Confirmation Sunday
May 9 – Youth Group – 6pm-8pm

June 1 – Graduation Sunday (4 High School Graduates)
June 5 – Council Meeting
June 7 – Rummage Sale & Brat Fry??
June 15 – Outdoor Worship – Father's Day
June 21 – Pride Fest – Joan's Park Appleton

The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm with the Lord's Prayer.
Respectfully submitted,

Jenn Abing

Next Meeting: February 6, 2025, at 6:30pm