

Church Council Meeting Minutes
April 23rd, 2023
 11:30 AM | Church / Zoom

Moderator:	Shawn Hillman	Ministry Team Leadership	
Vice-Moderator: <i>(Nominating Cmt Leader)</i>	OPEN	Operations:	Craig Theimer
Recording Secretary:	OPEN	Christian Education	OPEN
Chief Financial Officer: <i>(Financial Team Leader)</i>	Pat Herman	Apple Tree Board:	Rhea Joy Simonich
Youth Member:	OPEN	Memorial Board:	Elizabeth Ormes
Staff that also attend council meetings		“CONNECTIONS” <i>(2022 Facilitating Groups Combined – 1 to attend each council meeting)</i>	Ginny Noble <i>Linda Parker Dayan Hancock et. al.</i>
Pastor:	OPEN		
Director of Music:	OPEN		
Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries:	OPEN		
<i>Non-Attending Staff</i>	Office Manager: Sharon Kuzel Custodian: Joann Kapsimalis Apple Tree Director: OPEN	<i>Not active positions</i>	<i>Church Intern Associate Minister</i>

AGENDA

- **Review & Approval of March Council Meeting Minutes**
- **Moderator Report** *(Shawn)*
- **Office Manager** *(Sharon)*
- **Financial Report** *(Pat/Craig)*
- **Memorial Board Report** *(Elizabeth)*
- **Operations Report** *(Craig)*
 - *NOTE: Will now include custodial updates.*
- **Apple Tree Report** *(Rhea-Joy, Craig)*
- **Christian Education** *(OPEN - No activity)*
- **CONNECTIONS Team Report** *(Ginny)*
- **Calendar Review**
- **Old Business**
- **New Business**
- **Closing Prayer**

Call to Order 11:35am

Attending (mark with an "X")

x	Shawn (Moderator)
	(Vice Moderator)
	(Recording Secretary)
x	Pat (Financial Team)
	Craig (Operations + Finance)
	(Youth Member)

x	Rhea-Joy (Apple Tree)
x	Elizabeth (Memorial Board)
x	Ginny (or CONNECTIONS rep)
	(Guest)
	(Guest)
	(Guest)

Review & Approval of March Council Meeting Minutes (Ginny/Pat/Approved)

Moderator Report

- It's been a busy spring! Easter Breakfast & Service went well, even if it was a smaller-than-expected crowd. I feel we need more events like this to keep the social life of the church vibrant - it spills over into other activities.
- Speaking of, we have SERVICE DAY next weekend! Shawn will work this week to solidify our activity(ies) for next Sunday.
 - Suggestions:
 - Participate in the Foster Event at Church (11am Sunday)
 - Landscaping / outdoor work at church
 - Feed my Starving Children
 - Trash Pickup?
- Goals for spring for Shawn:
 - Tender a formal, written agreement with Rev. Joe Newton on parameters of service to this church.
 - Schedule a worship & Open meeting with II Conference representative to discuss future of church.

- Attend a service at a nearby church to observe and compare notes on their journey.
- As mentioned before, I'd like this year to include a re-dedicated focus to reviewing (and likely amending) our **bylaws**. Shawn will ask Mark what the interest is in helping review this again (*should be more simple than last time*).
- Worship Service and planning for 2023
 - Non-Sanctuary Services
 - Fellowship hall
 - Outside
 - Offsite
 - Taking ideas!
 - 'Taking church to shut-ins, etc.'
 - Service Days: 1/29, 4/30, 7/30, 10/29, 12/31
- Contact List & Trespass Procedure - we started discussing this but have not finalized. Shawn needs to work with Sharon & Craig on this more
- We should also review a full list of keyholders to verify all are still needed and accounted for.
- Communications: I encourage everyone to continue speaking directly with each other if there are questions, concerns, or needs.
- Shawn playing around a bit with the agenda to (attempt) to streamline. Sharon's report moved up, Joann/custodial report will be included in operations

Office Manager Report (Sharon)

1. 1st Quarter attendance report submitted showing an uptick in attendance numbers from high teens/low 20's to mid 20's on average.
2. Have interest from another AA group in holding regular meetings on Wednesday or Thursday night. Have not received their official application yet, but will forward when I do. I spoke with our existing

Friday night Serendipity group just to make sure there were no conflicts and he said "the more recovery out there, the better."

3. I am working to resolve an issue with Diane Peterson's baptism certificate. Should be fixed by the end of the month. Barbara Lohrbach's signature requested and that is the first available time she can meet.
4. Craig and I finished cleaning and organizing the office closet and the pastor's office. All cabinets were cleaned out, lots of old computer hardware was recycled, and shelves reinstalled. We are in tip top shape!

Financial Report (Pat/Craig)

- Monthly review of Treasurer's Report, Balance Sheet.
 - Note: Pat to send out this week. Did not go out this month (no worries!)
 - **Abbreviated Funds:** +\$3,348 over expenses (good!)
 - **Consolidated Fund:** Need to address that more funds are needed for **Micro Pantry**. Is there a way to help people on EFT realize opportunity to route funds to this? Shawn going to help route Local Needy Mission funding as well. Encourage a gift-card drive (email blast)
 - **Kitchen Grant Status:** We received notice that we will get some of the grant we applied for, but aren't sure how much. Once we know what we are getting, we will re-evaluate where they are used.
 - **Balance Sheet:** \$222,985.11 Total liabilities and fund balance
 - **Treasurer's Report:**
 - *Phones: Credit came through from switch (as expected/noted last month.*
 - *Advertising costs: Need clarified*

Memorial Board (Elizabeth)

- **\$38,207** in stock value, \$38,632.40 total value *(includes liquid cash in Church finances currently*

- (\$2,000 scholarship - Hancock)
- Memorial Book - Pat working with committee to update book and keep unlocked, and will be sharing info to include in services.
 - Sue Davis, member of Memorial Board, is representative in Tuesday discussions around this book.

Operations (Craig)

- Report to be submitted and will be added later

Apple Tree (Rhea-Joy, Craig)

- Dena resigned as director effective 3/24. Two teachers acting as interim co-directors. It is going well and more discussions to be had about next school year / director position.
- Next Meeting May 9th
- Shawn note: Please continue speaking to AT being a part of this church (not just “renters”)

Christian Education (*OPEN - No activity*)

CONNECTIONS Team (*Ginny*)

Includes Spiritual Life, Congregational Life, Community Connections, Hope & Kindness Ministries.

- Easter Breakfast was a success!
- Next Hope Day May 6
- Church Picnic - end of May or beginning of June? Ginny will talk to Linda about possibility this year.

Calendar:

- **Sunday 4/30:** Service Sunday
 - Service Days:
 - 1/29: (Shut ins),
 - 4/30:
 - 7/30: (Plainfield Food Pantry)
 - 10/29:
 - 12/31 (New Years Eve theme/party?)

- **Sunday 4/30** (11am): Foster Parent Community / Information Event
(*Guardian Angels Community Service & Plainfield Pride*)
- **Tuesday 5/2** (6:30pm): Spectrum Singers rehearsal
- **Saturday 5/6** (5pm start, 7pm concert): Spectrum Singers Concert

Old Business -

- 7/30 Service Day Idea: Pat working with Pat at Plainfield Food Pantry: We could possibly help this day with stock
- Records - confirmed last Council meeting to keep physical records 3 years. Pat has begun destroying older records (shred)
- Memorial Book: Hasn't been physically updated in years. Sharon has digital records of all and we need to update. Can print pages to add. Let Sharon know to go ahead and print
 - Long term: need to consider replacing book.
- Blessing Bucket 2023
 - **Jan** - Micro Pantry
 - **Feb** - Service Day
 - **March** - OGHS (UCC 5 for 5)
 - **April** - Pastor's Discretionary Fund (2022: Ukraine Relief Fund via UCC)
 - **May** - FRB / Local Needy (2022: Ukraine Relief Fund via UCC)
 - **June** - Strengthen the Church (UCC 5 for 5)
 - **July** - FMSC
 - **Aug** - OCWM (UCC 5 for 5)
 - **Sept** - Neighbors in Need (UCC 5 for 5)
 - **Oct** - Community Hope Day (new)
 - **Nov** - Arctic Adventure - *need to look at → slot in Micro Pantry?!*
 - **Dec** - Christmas Fund (UCC 5 for 5)
- Direct Deposit enrollment will be open to staff soon as Craig and Pat work through.

- Noted March meeting: Outside overhang, fascia: there is a hole and we are getting birds. Craig can work on getting estimates. Will need to be drywalled or covered up
- Grandfather Clock: If we're not going to use it, should we auction it off or sell?
 - Craig: Yes but need to disclaimer doesn't have keys.
 - We will continue to investigate options and price
- Restroom signage: Changing signage from 'toilet' to 'restroom'?
- Shawn: Would like us to look into forced air and sound system updates
 - We have 12 window a/c units throughout the building, which may be draining our electricity and resources more than we realize. May be worth investigating
 - Sound System in sanctuary: Needs a complete gutting/overhaul. Shawn will continue working on getting this looked at.

New Business

- There is a planned purchase and construction to the property adjacent to us (North). The plans do not call for any landscaping between the two. We have concerns that with our aging treeline that there will be a lot of debris, noise, and safety concerns. Bill Caton is helping voice as a broker to the deal, but we as a church need to voice as well. Shawn will work with Craig on next steps.
- New member orientation. Need to put out feelers for those who are interested.
 - Nicole & Marie, Andrea, Hogans, Kristina & Hannah,

Closing Prayer

Adjourn at 1:30pm (Motion by Pat, Second by Ginny. Approved)

Next meeting is scheduled for: May 21st 11:30am