

## OFFICIAL BOARD MINUTES

March 7, 2024 6:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER** Called to order by Missy Johnson, Rich Hambright, Rob Miller, Lori Brooke, Leon Larson, Vince Ottaway, Bob Dewar, Pastor Deborah Mann, Treasurer Keith Barnhart, and Secretary Mary Larson.

Also attending for a portion of the meeting: Dinette Myers and Syd Harned

**OPEN IN PRAYER** – Pastor Deb

**APPROVAL OF DOCKET** Motion to approve docket with the addition of Bernabe services and upcoming visit by Presbytery representative; unanimous approval.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Motion to accept minutes as written; unanimous approval.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Keith indicated digital sign donations are coming in and he will retain in checking until needed. Pest Control invoice is shown twice for the quarter because the vendor forgot to bill us for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2023. The sanctuary A/V project is fully paid with gifts from Lehman estate and monies from the Ireys Fund. First half per capita payment has been paid to both denominations. There was a motion to approve Treasurer's Report; unanimous approval.

Start of Month balance	\$ 232.13
Receipts	\$35,889.94
Sub Total	\$36,122.07
Disbursements	\$22,627.69
Ending Balance	\$13,494.38
Board Checking	\$ 463.55

### PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor's Activity for February, 2024

The birds are singing, the sun is shining and Spring is on its way!! It's a joy to see longer daylight and the lifting of spirits from the winter blahs. This month was packed with activity as we began our newest Confirmation Class with 2 girls on February 4th. It will run until Pentecost Sunday on May 19th. CYG has been busy with our regular meetings, Super Bowl party, and fun presentation by Sheltered Reality (positive motivation with drum line). The CYG leadership team continues to meet monthly for planning and evaluation. The WOW leader/helper team worked well to provide coverage in the absences of those on vacation, sicknesses and Lee Ann's surgery/recovery. A representative from Camp Bear Creek came and did activities with the kids to help get them excited for camp this summer. We have quite a few already signed up to go. This month we also began the season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service. A Bible Study and Lenten devotionals were added to aid in our Lenten faith journeys, along with a worship series highlighting the first disciples (ordinary people) as they 'Follow the Way of Love'. Special meetings this month included the digital sign project, stewardship online giving, and Congregational Life committee as we began plans for the year, including a 50th birthday celebration for the uniting of our 2 churches. Mary and I also worked with trustees on some minor repairs around the church. I met with the DOC Cluster via zoom for our monthly check in and clergy support. The Ministerial Association also met, but I was unable to attend due to Lee Ann's caregiving needs. I was however, able to attend and participate in several outings in the area to offer community support: World Day of Prayer at Nichols Christian Church (DOC), Shrimp Fry at St Joseph's Catholic Church in WL, the WL High School Choral concert, Pastor Kyler and wife Laura's baby shower at Cedar Valley Methodist Church and Norma's birthday party at Simpson Home. I also led 2 worship services at Simpson and provided ashes to several people at Heath Manor. Other pastoral visits and spiritual care were provided throughout the month, as well as maintaining routine office responsibilities. Lunch Ladies met on our new day, the 4th Wednesday of the month, and together we enjoyed a time of laughter and sharing. We also celebrate that our

music program continues to bring joy and inspiration to our souls as we lift our voices and instruments in praise. As we enter into this new season, I pray that we will continue to see God's Hope all around us and give thanks.

Happy to be in ministry with First Church United-  
Pastor Deb Mann

## **ONGOING BUSINESS**

1. Church
  - a. Canopy – Missy and Bob provided a summary of recent conversations. The canopy structure can be built with either wood or metal pillars. Ken Wright has indicated interest in bidding on the metal pillars. Ken Morrison is planning to bid on the project construction but has been out of office for a number of weeks. Missy to follow-up.
  - b. Sanctuary and lounge water damage – Mark Johnson plans to replace the damaged ceiling tiles in the lounge. Keith volunteered to contact the church insurance agent to let them know of recent water leaks and see if an on-site visit by an adjuster is recommended.
  - c. Committee to review online giving – Pastor Deb and stewardship volunteers met to discuss information provided from denominations. Will schedule next meet to include a representative from a Coralville church that is using and highly recommends one particular vendor.
  - d. Digital sign project – Rob shared that one half of the anticipated cost has already been raised through private donations or is pledged to be turned in shortly. Rob and Mary worked quickly to submit a funding request to the Joseph and Edward Ryan Memorial in advance of their quarterly deadline. We will be notified in April if our request for funding was approved. The Board unanimously agreed to proceed with submitting the down-payment to Lange Sign Group to get the project moving forward. Brief discussion about the various kinds of messaging to be displayed and the kinds of requests likely to come in from the community which led Missy to ask Rob to draft a Digital Sign Usage policy prior to installation.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Dinette and Syd presented to the Board. At this time, the Fair Stand and all of its financial arrangements are processed through the Congregational Life checking account, but the people who lead the Fair Stand activities are not on the Congregational Life Committee. Because the two groups' activities do not overlap, we have created an unnecessary accounting path for the Congregational Life committee. Dinette and Syd highlighted the activity and needs of the Fair Stand committee annually. They recommend the Board work with the church Treasurer (Keith) to change the budget and checking account procedures and separate Congregational Life and Fair Stand dollars. Keith agreed to facilitate these changes and will continue to write checks to reimburse any personal expenses incurred on behalf of Congregational Life. An amount (TBD) will be moved to a savings line item on the FCU budget specifically for Congregational Life. Missy will work with Amrita Giri to finalize outstanding activities on the existing checking account and that account will then be closed. Joe Myers has volunteered to be Treasurer of the Fair Stand account and will establish a new checking account designated for Fair Stand. He will report annually on the income/expenses of the Fair Stand. The proposal to proceed was unanimously approved.
2. WLCSD updated the Alternate Shelter Agreement with First Church United, which is done every five years. The Board unanimously approved the new agreement.
3. With the resignation of Jared Deahr from the Board, a seat is now vacant. Rob volunteered to ask a congregation member to fill the vacancy.
4. First Church United has directional road signs on Highway 6, one of which is damaged. Missy had done some preliminary work to learn about Iowa DOT requirements and how to obtain permission to change signs. She suggested new signs be purchased and that FCU obtain permission to change locations of one sign. She will work with IDOT on the project. Unanimously approved.

5. Noe Bernabe has begun spring work on the mulched beds and notified price increase to \$570 for that annual spring work. Monthly maintenance of weeds and pruning will increase to \$170/month. The Board voted to continue use of Noe's services. Expense unanimously approved.

**OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

A volunteer, representing the regional Presbyterian Church, would like to meet with pastor, Clerk of Session, and others as an outreach activity and relationship building between the Presbytery and its churches. Pastor Deb, Mary, and Keith will meet with the representative on Friday, March 8. Pastor Deb mentioned planning is underway for the May 12 worship service to include a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church celebration. Leon suggested we return to ringing the church bells prior to worship – a tradition for many years – and the Board agreed.

**ADJOURNMENT** Motion to adjourn at 7:55pm; unanimous approval.

**PRAYER CONCERNS SHARED/CLOSING PRAYER**

**NEXT MEETING** April 4, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.