

OFFICIAL BOARD MINUTES

April 4, 2024 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER Called to order by Rich Hambright, Rob Miller, Lori Brooke, Leon Larson, Vince Ottaway, Bob Dewar, Shaun Kruger, Pastor Deborah Mann, Treasurer Keith Barnhart, and Secretary Mary Larson. Missy Johnson joined by phone. Also attending for a portion of the meeting: Brenda Miller on behalf of Stewardship Team and the 2024 confirmands.

OPEN IN PRAYER – Pastor Deb

APPROVAL OF DOCKET Motion to approve docket with the addition of church bells repair, push-button assisted entrance, and one office administration request. Unanimous approval.

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

TREASURER’S REPORT

In review of expenses, Keith mentioned ground maintenance is up due to the annual application of mulch around church. The down-payment has been made for the digital sign to be ordered. The Board was pleased to note that less has been used from savings so far this year when compared to last year. In May, when it is expected that committee members will complete the separation of Congregational Life dollars from the Fair Stand, per the March Board Meeting, Keith will edit the line item in the budget that now says “Kitchen Expansion” and that line will become “Congregational Life”. Keith will then assume responsibility for the Congregational Life dollars while Joe Myers assumes Treasurer duties of the Fair Stand account. There was a motion to approve Treasurer’s Report; unanimous approval.

Start of Month balance	\$13,494.38
Receipts	\$24,125.06
Sub Total	\$37,619.44
Disbursements	\$31,883.02
Ending Balance	\$ 5,736.42
Board Checking	(\$ 2,943.22)

PASTOR’S REPORT

Pastor’s Activity for March, 2024

March began with World Day of Prayer at Nichols Christian Church and ended with our Easter celebration. In between, a lot of activity took place as the Spring season burst forth. It was filled with St. Joseph’s Fish and Shrimp Fries, St Joseph’s Lone Tree breakfast fundraiser, the soup supper at Nichols Christian Church and the CYG pancake fundraiser where \$2,000.00 was raised. The Lenten Bible study and Confirmation classes also met weekly. Within our building, we hosted the Citizenship classes, the U of I Mobile Clinic, the 4H and Aquarius clubs, NAMI Mental Health information class and the Ministerial Association where we met with the new police chief. With Spring break, CYG, WOW and Confirmation took a week off, but jumped right back after it was over. CYG had a movie night with popcorn and pizza and shared an evening with 3 nuns, working here as missionaries with the Catholic Church in town and Columbus Junction. WOW continues to shine each week with the help of wonderful volunteers. The kids were able to share their talents in worship 2 times this month as they also assisted at the meaningful Palm Sunday service with the Chancel and Chime Choirs. Several of us met with our new Presbytery liaison representative and I attended our monthly Cluster meeting in Coralville. The CCDOC Upper Midwest Regional Associate Minister Rev. Liz Woodward also visited with us in worship on March 17. This month, a group of 6 of us also began meeting regularly to work on the on-line giving stewardship project. We have talked with reputable individuals who have been of great assistance as we move forward in this task. The digital sign project also continues to move forward. Lastly, our Lunch Ladies met for fellowship

this month and Simpson worship services were held. Pastoral care was provided throughout the month and much planning and preparation went into the Holy Week services by a great many individuals. Your labor of Love was noticed and GREATLY appreciated!! We have much to celebrate for the Risen Savior lives in the hearts of First Church United.

Happy Easter - Pastor Deb Mann

ONGOING BUSINESS

1. Church

- a. Canopy – Bob provided a summary of recent conversations with Ken Morrison. Questions continue persist related to the design of the structure. Ken Morrison recommends the current paperwork be shown to Terry Goerd, the building inspector, to get his input and advice in moving forward with changes.
- b. Sanctuary and lounge water damage – Keith contacted the insurance company. While we are covered in the event of damage, it is best to bring in an adjuster to evaluate for an insurance claim when damage is fresh and/or occurring. Ceiling tiles have been replaced with minimal expense. There would be a deductible amount to meet before insurance would provide benefit, and that has not been reached. Discussion ensued related to replacement of entire roof. No action to be taken at this time.
- c. Committee to review online giving – Brenda Miller presented a recommendation from the Stewardship team (and expanded participants). The group would like Board approval to proceed with Vanco online giving platform. Implementation experience and anticipated costs were reviewed. Dinette, as recording secretary, will have access to online reports that she needs to complete her quarterly reporting to donors. It remains to be seen how an online giving platform will impact the in-person worship experience during the time of offering. First Church United will need to open a new bank account specifically for the pass-through transactions needed to implement the relationship. The Board approved moving forward with Vanco, indicating Keith Barnhart and Dinette Myers to be signers on the Vanco bank account. Motion to approve: unanimous approval.
- d. Digital sign project – Board members were provided an update via email, prior to the meeting. Lange Sign Group will be on site April 5 to contribute to the location and marking of new sign. Lori indicated Brooke family be able to provide equipment for removal of old limestone structure when the time comes. Mary volunteered to contact Evelyn Evans to see if she'd like to retain a section of the original limestone for memorial keepsake. Leon Larson would also like to retain a section. New based and frame installation expected week of April 15. Electrician to begin new wiring/conduit simultaneously.
- e. Vacant seat on Board – Two candidates have been approached and both declined. Additional names were discussed to fill the vacancy. Pastor Deb volunteered to contact additional church members.
- f. Directional road signs – Missy reviewed what she learned from the Iowa Department of Transportation and it has been determined not to proceed with ordering and placement of new sign posts on Highway 6. Mark Johnson will be able to replace the bent sign that already exists on the corner of Maxson and Columbus, on the Giri BP property.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Church Bells – Leon rang the electronic church bells on Easter morning. The easternmost bell (closest to the church) does not ring. The clapper visibly vibrates, but does not engage enough to strike the bell. Bob recalls that Arnie Hart did some re-work of the electrical components to the bells previously. He may be able to provide some insight. Lori indicated a family member could get up in there and try to lubricate the clapper and see if it may be rusted due to lack of use.
2. Assistive Door Entry – Lori Brooke brought up the topic of adding a handicap button to our main entrance door, to facilitate entry of people who need a little extra time and assistance getting inside. It was suggested that Marv's Glass may be a resource – Lori or Darren will contact them. This may be an item added to the overall canopy project.

OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Mary will be absent for the May 2 Board meeting and a Board member will need to take minutes of the meeting and send them to the church office afterwards. A volunteer will be identified the night of the May 2 meeting. In addition, Mary and Pastor Deb will both be gone on Saturday, May 4th when the U of I Mobile Clinic is scheduled to be at the church. Someone needs to be identified to unlock the church by 12:15pm and lock it back up after 3:00pm. Rich volunteered to do so and will get a key from the church office.

ADJOURNMENT Motion to adjourn at 8:00pm; unanimous approval.

PRAYER CONCERNS SHARED/CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT MEETING May 2, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.