

FCU BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 1, 2024 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER – Called to order by Missy Johnson with Leon Larson, Rob Miller, Bob Dewar, Shaun Kruger, Rich Hambright, Pastor Deborah Mann, Secretary Mary Larson, and Treasurer Keith Barnhart attending. Speaking guest was Matt Miller of Lee Insurance Agency (Muscatine).

OPEN IN PRAYER

APPROVAL OF DOCKET – Motion to approve docket with addition of Pastoral Relations Committee report; unanimous approval.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT –

Keith noted that all bills paid are typical of this time of year and expected. Working in conjunction with the Treasurer of Endowment Committee, a request has been submitted to have accumulated interest disbursed to church. New headset mics need to be ordered for worship in sanctuary.

Start of Month balance	\$ 3,402.53
Receipts	\$15,518.01
Sub Total	\$18,920.54
Disbursements	\$11,211.86
Ending Balance	\$ 7,708.68
Board Checking	(\$12,952.27)

Motion to approve Treasurer's report; unanimous approval.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor's Activity for June and July, 2024

June started out with the recital of Brenda Miller's students (many of whom are in our church family) as we listened to their hard work and offered encouraging written notes. The following day, I participated in a community blood drive held in fellowship hall and later met with the worship planning team to finalize summer plans. We also had the pleasure of attending a graduation party, an 80th birthday party for Brenda's mom and a cousin's wedding in Illinois before heading out west to see our son in Denver and spend some time in Breckenridge, CO. We loved being surrounded by the beautiful mountains! It was good for the soul to get away and be reminded of God's Presence in the great outdoors. In my absence, the worship team led Laity Sunday and Jason Thrasher provided pulpit supply. I'm so thankful for their assistance and willingness to help out. When we returned, Lee Ann and another CYG leader took seven CYG

Junior High youth on a day mission trip to Cedar Rapids to work with the Matthew 25 ministry team. It was a good way to introduce them to mission teamwork. We met as well with the parents and youth going on the Senior High mission trip in July to Nashville, TN. They will help at the Fair church service and be commissioned. The CYG leadership team also met to begin planning for our upcoming season in the Fall.

Colleagues from Disciples held our yearly cluster

day retreat at FCU when plans fell through for our intended outdoor retreat. We had a nice turnout of clergy and the Regional and Associate Directors attended as well. The Lunch Ladies and Huff-N-Puff exercise class continue to meet regularly. The last day of the month, we held an outdoor worship service and picnic potluck before cleaning the fair stand that afternoon.

July was heavily focused on preparing for the Fair. Not only did we have the Fair Stand, but we also had a church float in the parade to celebrate our 50th anniversary and were in charge of leading the Ministerial Association Fair Church Service. HUGE thanks to all those who helped in ANY way to make all of these things happen successfully. The Fair Stand is a wonderful outreach/mission ministry, but I have noticed it is

also life impacting and has touched the hearts of many workers throughout the years. The Fair leadership team again worked tirelessly putting in many long hours. Their hearts and dedication definitely shine through. It was great seeing individuals and families come together, all ages, helping one another. Beyond the fair activities this month, I held a baptism/membership class, worked with the Tom Brown family planning and leading his funeral service, visited with church family members, led a Simpson worship service, provided pastoral care as needed, held office hours and checked in with my Spiritual Director. Lee Ann and I also attended Synod School after the fair. It has been a very active and fruitful summer, so I pray that we all find time for rest and restoration in the coming weeks before VBS and Back to School activities. First Church United is an amazing group of hearts and hands working together!! It is a privilege to work alongside you.

May God bless us with Peace and Rest – Love Pastor Deb

ONGOING BUSINESS

Needs Assessment

Maintenance of Church

- A. Church canopy update – FEH proposal accepted. Expect to hear from architect soon.
 - a. Lounge ceiling continue to leak with each rainfall.
- B. Sanctuary water damage – Bob Dewar will seek out Morrison Roofing about repairing NW corner of sanctuary.
- C. Hot water to single bathroom – Lynch Plumbing stopped by 7/24, cost estimate \$350
- D. Toilet for women’s restroom – Show this to Lynch when on site

Existing Projects Underway

Church Bells – no activity to report at this time

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Annual Insurance Policy Review - August is the month of annual renewal of church insurance policy. Insurance agent, Matt Miller, of Lee Agency (Muscatine) joined the meeting to provide the Board some important information. Matt began with a preview of the industry market changes. Carriers have become more restrictive in terms of property coverage. Workman’s Comp coverage is now with a group of 25 churches. When one church has a large claim, it impacts the premiums of all churches. Lee Agency is working on a Work Comp policy for individual churches and hopes to have it in place for next renewal cycle. He then took time to go through the FCU policy renewal and subsequent premiums. Mr. Miller indicated FCU should budget for a 20-30% increase in premium for next year and then hope the market stabilizes after that.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn; unanimous approval

PRAYER CONCERNS SHARED/CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT MEETING September 5, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Follow-up to October meeting:

- 1) The Board requested the language from the church by-laws pertaining to use of any principal amount from the Endowment Fund: *BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the primary PURPOSE of this FUND is to enhance the mission outreach of First Church United. ALL PRINCIPAL AMOUNTS WILL BE RETAINED AND ONLY THE INCOME EXPENDED: UNLESS BY 2/3 CONGREGATIONAL APPROVAL.*

- 2) I do not see any language or amendment that is specific to use of Watters Special Endowment Fund. It appears as though the language above pertains.
- 3) The Board has full access to and discretion toward disposition of the Irej Fund.
- 4) The Board requested balances of the Endowment Funds (as of 4/2024):
 - a. FCU Endowment Fund – total in both denominations = \$949,1936
 - b. Watters Special Endowment Fund – total in both denominations = \$239,611
 - c. Irej Fund = \$425,395
 - i. Board requested \$10,000 withdrawal of accumulated interest for support of general checking (May 2024)
 - ii. Board requested \$20,000 withdrawal of accumulated interest for support of canopy project (July 2024)