

## **FCU BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

October 3, 2024 6:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER** – Called to order by Missy Johnson with Leon Larson, Shaun Kruger, Lori Brooke, Pastor Deborah Mann, Secretary Mary Larson, and Treasurer Keith Barnhart attending. Guest present: Kevin Cullum, Executive Director, Camp Bear Creek in addition to Bill Koellner and Meredith Parizek from the Endowment Committee.

### **OPEN IN PRAYER**

**GUEST PRESENTATION** – Kevin Cullum asked to speak to a combined gathering of the Official Board and the Endowment Committee to increase First Church United awareness of the \$3 million multi-year capital improvement campaign that is getting underway. Campaign brochures were made available in advance of the meeting and distributed to Board members. Kevin was pleased to be in West Liberty to thank First Church United for its many years of support toward the camp, and noted that in 2024, First Church United sent more students for a camping experience than any other church. A video presentation was shared with footage from the camp and interviews with staff. To launch the capital fund drive, a private donation of \$1 million has been given specifically to build a climbing tower. Kevin respectfully requested that First Church United consider a pledge to the campaign, spread out over 3 to 4 years, in the range of \$50,000 to \$100,000. It would be helpful to the campaign progress if First Church United could communicate a decision by end of calendar year. Attendees asked questions, thanked Kevin for making the trip to West Liberty, and he and the Endowment Committee members left the meeting. The topic was tabled for a future meeting.

**APPROVAL OF DOCKET** – Motion to approve docket; unanimous approval.

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

### **TREASURER’S REPORT** –

In light of the world and national disaster events, Keith indicated we would be paying the final amounts budgeted to be sent to each denomination. The Fair Stand committee gave \$1,461 to the Congregational Life fund, representing the final step of the process to more clearly separate those initiatives and committees. Given the significant disparity of dollars coming in as gifts, with three months of expenses ahead, the Board members shared ideas about ways to further alert the congregation and the community about the importance of year-end giving. As a first step, it was suggested that the Board Chair say something from the pulpit, noting it has been done in prior years when needed.

Start of Month balance	\$ 1,644.79
Receipts	\$36,667.90
Sub Total	\$38,312.69
Disbursements	\$36,884.53
Ending Balance	\$ 1,428.16
Board Checking	(\$26,003.81)

Motion to approve Treasurer’s report; unanimous approval.

### **PASTOR’S REPORT**

September brought back familiar activities with a few unexpected surprises along the way. Ministerial Association held its first meeting of the season with the addition of 2 new clergy, Rev. Marcia Heil serving Nichols (and Muscatine) Christian Churches and Fr. David Paintsil serving St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Hills. Chief Houser also attended to offer support as we continue to build strong relationships within our communities. Several Association members met with School Administrators the following day for our

annual discussion. CYG is off to a good start with our annual Kickoff games, Mission Trip presentation, Trust falls and Parent meetings. NAMI spoke to our youth about mental well-being, 'it's ok to not be ok'. We have added another board member, Rev. Lynn Thiede and cube leader, Jason Thrasher. GriefShare began its annual 13-week session on Sept 3 and has 5 in attendance to date. On Labor Day weekend, Cami Jones filled the pulpit in my absence as we spent time with my mom. Regular worship services were held this month with the exception of Sept 22. Special thanks to Missy, Brenda, Lori and Sam for filling in for Lee Ann and I as we made a quick dash to Michigan for the surprise arrival of another grandchild. Hopefully this adoption will go much smoother and quicker. It was definitely a challenging experience for all of us, especially the 2 ½ old 'brother' that is not quite sure about sharing 'his' mommy. This month also brought memorable experiences for Honor Flight participants, Joe Myers and Dean Phelps. What a blessing for them to witness the love, support and gratitude from so many community members. After worship on Sept 29, the Congregational Life Committee treated us to an Ice Cream Social – Yum!! WOW is blessed again this season to have great helpers and adults as we currently serve 33 children. I have also been working with the Personnel Committee as we pursue new applicants for the Office Administrator position and the Worship Planning Team as we work on World Communion and Stewardships plans. Office responsibilities and pastoral care needs were met, along with leading Simpson worship. This month I met via Zoom with my Spiritual Director and took online classes for continuing education. With the restart of this year's choir season, It has been soul satisfying to share our musical talents for the glory of God and to lift one another up. I was unable to attend the DOC cluster meeting as I needed to be at the hospital and the Presbytery meeting as I was needed in Michigan. I was able however to attend a Christian Church (DOC) regional book study via Zoom and attend the funeral for the local Presbyterian pastor who died tragically last week. The month ended with the Lunch Ladies and "Night Out after the Fair" gathering at Thirsty Camel. Faith, Fun, Food and Fellowship always a winning combination!! May we continue to move forward celebrating the gift of one another and the Savior we serve.

Prayers of Gratitude – Love Pastor Deb

## **ONGOING BUSINESS**

### **Needs Assessment**

#### Maintenance of Church

- A. Church canopy update – a summary of the October 1 FEH Design options was distributed to the Board members in advance of the meeting. Members expressed unanimous approval for Option 1 with the less noticeable slope. Questions were raised and Mary was asked to send them to FEH Design for clarification
- B. Sanctuary water damage – Bob Dewar spoke with Ken Morrison, they will repair NW corner of wood ceiling in sanctuary.
- C. Water leaking into Lounge/Study Ceiling - Missy indicated previously that Morrison Roofing believes we should replace the entire roof over that area. Board members expressed concern that this continues to linger with no specific plan made. Missy will contact Ken Morrison and request an estimate and a description of his recommendations for roof replacement.

#### Existing Projects Underway

**NEW BUSINESS** - None

**ADJOURNMENT** – Motion to adjourn; unanimous approval

**PRAYER CONCERNS SHARED/CLOSING PRAYER**

**NEXT MEETING** November 7, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Follow-up to October 2023 meeting:

- 1) The Board has full access to and discretion toward disposition of the Irey Fund.
- 2) The Board requested periodic update on balances of the Endowment Funds (as of 08/2024):
  - a. FCU Endowment Fund – total in both denominations = \$954,807
  - b. Watters Special Endowment Fund – total in both denominations = \$241,045
  - c. Irey Fund = \$432,854 as of September 30
    - 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)