

FCU BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 7, 2024 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER – Called to order by Missy Johnson with Leon Larson, Bob Dewar, Rob Miller, Jonathon Wieland, Vince Ottaway, Rich Hambright, Pastor Deborah Mann, Secretary Mary Larson, future Secretary Kelly Waters, and Treasurer Keith Barnhart attending.

OPEN IN PRAYER

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

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

TREASURER’S REPORT –

A review of the October financial reports, as prepared by Keith, was conducted. There are no bills to be paid, but Keith highlighted some anticipated expenditures coming up in December. With a shortfall in giving, as compared to the budget, he suggested the Board request accumulated interest from the Irey Fund. These dollars could be used to cover the general fund checking account will we wait and see if giving increases at holiday/year-end, as is sometimes the case. The denominations have been paid, as has quarterly insurance and IRS payments. The Board agreed with Keith’s suggestion and asked the Secretary to communicate with the Treasurer of Endowment Committee.

Start of Month balance	\$ 1,428.16
Receipts	\$27,939.09
Sub Total	\$29,367.25
Disbursements	\$21,300.09
Ending Balance	\$ 8,067.16
Board Checking	(\$25,499.72)

Motion to approve Treasurer’s report; unanimous approval.

PASTOR’S REPORT

Pastor’s Activity for October 2024

Hi-lights of this month include working with the Personnel Committee to find Mary’s replacement for Office Administrator. She has done an outstanding job, sharing her many talents and great love for her faith community. We will miss her in the office, but know she will be around to continue her ministry with our church family. Thankfully she will be able to train her replacement, daughter Kelly Waters, in November once Kelly finishes her current employment. We look forward to our new office partnership. GriefShare ministry continues on and is scheduled to wrap up this session on Nov 26. If anyone was unable to make it during our time slot, the WL United Methodist Church will be offering it again in the Spring. Please call them for further details. Special worship services were held in the month of October including, World Communion Sunday, special speaker Rev. Dr. Seth Normington, Transitional Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of East Iowa, and introduction of our ‘Sparkle Box’ as we Kicked Off our FCU Stewardship pledge drive with special speakers and a soup luncheon after worship. Each week we continue to be blessed by the talented ‘gifts’ of our musicians as well. Working with the Stewardship Committee, letters and mailings were sent out requesting financial pledges to help with planning next year’s budget needs. Our WOW and Sunday School children are collecting cereal boxes and soup cans to donate to our local food pantry and loose change (noisy offering) for Heifer International to help families overseas. We also continue to collect winter accessories for the coat giveaway in November. Mary and I attended the Voluntary Action Council meeting this month and received updates about the assistance being given to the community and the upcoming Christmas Boxes. The needs of our community continue to grow. In addition, we completed 32 Christmas shoeboxes with photo cards and will be dropping them off in November during National

Collection Week. CYG also collected food on our community-wide Scavenger Hunt, enjoyed home cubes and had fun on the yearly hayride this month. Lee Ann and I were able to attend the Christian Church (Disciples) All – Congregational Gathering on Oct 19, where I helped with worship. The funeral for Jack Martin was held here and officiated by Pastor Mario at the request of the family in my absence. CYG board and Ministerial Association met this month and Father Trevino and I attended the visitation of Carol Kaalberg's husband Gayle. Carol has served with the Ministerial Association for many years. This month I have also been busy finishing up a book study with regional clergy members, working on my continuing education and leading 2 worship services at Simpson. Pastoral care visits and counseling needs were met, along with office responsibilities. Lee Ann and I were fortunate to be able to get out one more time in our kayaks as we enjoyed the beautiful fall weather. We concluded this month's activities on Halloween night as we sat outside on the church sidewalk to invite others to worship with us, passing out candy and fruit snacks. This harvest season was a wonderful reminder of all the good that flows through our hearts and hands and resources. As we continue our Stewardship pledge commitments, may we be mindful of the many blessings God has 'gifted' us for the work of God's kingdom to come in this church, community and world. What a joy to be able to share God's love with others!!

Thankful to share in faithful stewardship with all of you – Love Pastor Deb

ONGOING BUSINESS

Needs Assessment

Maintenance of Church

- A. Sanctuary water damage to NW corner – Rich Hambright volunteered to clean up and repair the water-damaged area in the corner. He anticipates working on it yet this month.
- B. Water leaking into Lounge/Study Ceiling - Missy spoke with Ken Morrison and he has recommended a preliminary step to caulk over all of the drill holes in the metal roof. Winter is a bad time to put on a new roof. Morrison further suggested the church consider moving all seven of the A/C units to the ground and installing a new roof over as much of the structure as desired. This will be a very costly undertaking. Jonathan indicated he would be meeting with Todd Morrison in a few days and will ask him to meet at the church to review the caulk (or tar) idea.

Existing Projects Underway

- A. Church canopy update – As requested by the Board, FEH Design provided an estimate of the cost for someone to build the two canopy structures being considered. A number of options for the design, and those costs, was also reviewed as it will impact the overall total. Given the existing challenge with water damage to the roof, the Board has chosen to put a hold on further design discussion and the Secretary was asked to communicate this to FEH Design. The Board will plan an information session, to share concepts with the congregation, perhaps in February.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Camp Bear Creek Capital Campaign – Follow-up conversation took place related to Camp's request for a \$50,000-\$100,000 commitment from the church. The Board felt as though the timing of the request was not ideal, given the unknown expenses related to roof repair and the shortfall of income to meet anticipated expenses. We have a very strong financial commitment to the camp in that we send a large number of students annually and will continue to do so. After weighing these factors, the board decided a pledge would not be made at this time. Board asked the Secretary to communicate this outcome to Camp Bear Creek leadership.
- B. Special Giving Message – Missy, as Board Chair, created a special giving message to be sent to the email address list, and include the QR code in the message. Board members have the opportunity to suggest edits. A send date was not determined, but should be after the stewardship campaign ends.
- C. Technology Report from Brenda Miller was reviewed. The Board appreciates Brenda taking the initiative to enhance our worship and children's programming. Pastor Deb and Mary added that the

sanctuary PC is not compatible with office computer, sometimes causing a problem with transfer of worship service documents. The Board asked for Lee Ann to obtain a price for compatible equipment, being certain to also consult with Brenda and maintain compatibility to sound and projection pieces.

- D. Snow Removal Bid – Dustin Bowers provided a bid to provide snow removal services this winter. He indicated a change to his pricing structure, with a cost increase of \$50 from 2023-24 and switching to ‘base’ rate+ model. First Church bid includes:

- \$270 per push when snow is 1-3 inches (base rate)
- \$405 per push when snow is 3-6 inches (base time and half)
- \$540 per push when snow is 6 inches or more (base double time)
- Salt/sand rate changes to \$270 per event

Members of the Board have been pleased with Dustin’s working partnership in prior years and unanimously approved to accept the bid. The Secretary was asked to communicate approval to Mr. Bowers.

- E. Pastor Evaluation Report – Representing the Pastoral Relations Committee, Missy shared comments collected and all were very favorable. The committee put forth a recommendation to adjust salary and it was unanimously approved. If additional days out of office are needed, it is also approved.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn; unanimous approval

PRAYER CONCERNS SHARED/CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT MEETING December 5, 2024 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)
 - iii. Board requested \$25,000 withdrawal of accumulated interest for support of general checking (December 2024)