

MINUTES OF THE 161st ANNUAL MEETING
First Congregational Church of Saugatuck, MI – January 15, 2023
Meeting held via Virtual Meeting and In-person at the Church

Moderator Cathy Brockington called the meeting to order at 11:25 am.

Clerk Janna Rudich declared that a quorum of the members was present.

Pastor Sarah Terlouw gave a devotional and prayer.

Clerk Janna Rudich shared a poem and read a list of those members and friends of the congregation who had died in 2022.

The motion to approve a hybrid In-Person/Virtual Meeting by Tom VanTassell and seconded by Phyllis Yff was unanimously approved.

The motion to approve the minutes from the 2021 annual meeting by Frank Lamb and seconded by Vic Mayer was unanimously approved.

The motion to approve the agenda for the 2022 annual meeting with one change by Pat Gentry and seconded by Carol Garvelink was unanimously approved.

2023 Proposed Budget Discussion and Approval – Treasurer/Moderator Treasurer Phyllis Yff presented the proposed 2023 budget totaling \$198,563. Notable changes are: Contributions were increased to \$93,000, Money market transfers were reduced to \$27,063, Capital campaign of \$65,000 was added to the Income category, Parking lot funds were increased to \$10,000, Building improvements were increased to \$65,000 and Guest pastors were reduced to \$750. Motion made to approve the 2023 budget as presented totaling \$198,563 by Tom VanTassell and seconded by Pat Gentry. **Discussion:** Pastor Terlouw presented the 'Imagine the Possibilities' capital campaign. The church's needs projects are: new furnaces/air conditioners, improving the front steps, new signage on the front of the building and installing benches in front of the building. The church's wants project is: new carpet for the sanctuary. The campaign will kick off with a matching campaign until Easter 2023. The capital campaign fund raising will conclude in September 2023. Frank Lamb asked what would happen if the total fundraising goal amount was short. Could we take the money from the unrestricted portion of the Heritage fund? Treasurer Yff said that since the market has been down for awhile, it wouldn't be a good idea to withdraw a large amount. It would take a vote of the congregation to take the money out of the restricted portion of the Heritage Fund. Our investments are mostly in mutual funds, stocks, money market and bonds. Ralph Birkholz asked if Raymond James was still doing a good job taking care of the Heritage funds. Treasurer Yff said she was pleased with them and that they're very communicative regarding investing options. Birkholz also asked if we had considered solar or geothermal energy when replacing the HVAC units. Tom VanTassell asked about the change in the pastor's housing amounts. The pastor changed them after talking to their tax accountant. Mike Gentry asked if we could consider refurbishing the pews in the sanctuary when the carpet is replaced. Cindy Raue mentioned that we can finally correctly wire the Loop hearing system when the carpet is replaced by putting the wiring between the floor and the new carpet. Mike Gentry said that he didn't feel that people who rented our church respected the property and building. Thom Houseman mentioned that the pew veneer was repaired in the 2000's but should maybe be done again. Pastor Terlouw presented the pledge sheet for the capital campaign. Moderator Brockington called for a vote on the motion to approve the 2023 budget – Unanimous approval.

Board Nomination Slate Moderator Brockington presented the nomination slate. Motion by to approve the slate of nominations by Pat Gentry and seconded by Tom VanTassell was unanimously approved.

2023 Mission Theme Presentation and Unveiling of the Mission Board Missions Captain Tim Terlouw reviewed the 2022 mission projects and thanked everyone who had donated time and/or money last year. He presented the 2023 mission projects: There will be a special offering in February to start a fund to use when community groups approach the church to help with civic projects. There will be an Easter special offering to support one of the NACCC mission partners called 'A Christian Ministry in the National Parks' which is a student-led ministry to provide Christian community for people working, living and visiting in the national parks. The summer mission will be Fellinlove Farm which will hopefully include a worship service/church picnic. The Thanksgiving collection will be for Christian Neighbors with their Thanksgiving baskets and Gifts of Love. The Christmas Eve offering will be for the Love Fund.

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Open Forum Tom VanTassell mentioned that the International NACCC meeting will be held in Fiji with several of the members of the congregation planning on attending. He encouraged others to participate since it would be interesting to go to a whole new part of the world and also said that American Samoa is a Congregational nation. The NACCC meeting will be in Milwaukee which is more accessible to anyone who would want to attend. Pat Gentry asked for ideas of fun things the congregation to do together. Ralph Birkholz was concerned that it seemed visitors to our church don't seem to make a return visit. He mentioned that other churches have sign-up sheets which result in getting information that the church uses to contact the visitor. Our church is using a new visitor card that includes a donation by our church to their selected charity and also asks for information that will be used to contact them after their visit. Wendy VanTassell suggested following up with visitors by bringing them a gift of some kind. Betty White asked how the visitors would submit their cards since we're not passing the offering plate anymore. Kathy Plapp mentioned that we should have a dedicated congregational member that would seek out visitors to welcome them personally to our church. Phyllis Yff mentioned that she had to close the safety deposit box due to the closure of the bank and that interesting historical items from the box were available to look at. Brad Rudich thanked Pastor Terlouw for all of her hard work for our church. Thom Houseman thanked Cathy Brockington for her efforts as moderator.

Pastor Terlouw closed to the meeting with prayer.

Motion by Tom VanTassell and Mike Gentry to adjourn the meeting at 12:35 was unanimously approved.

Janna Rudich, Clerk