

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SAUGATUCK
BOARD OF MINISTRY
November 8, 2021

Call to order: Moderator Brockington at 6:40 pm.

Present: Rudich, Escott, Gentry, Raue, Brockington, Yff, Terlouw, Rusiecki

Absent: Boyce

Also Present: Pastor Sarah Terlouw

Minutes: Motion to approve the October 11, 2021 minutes with no correction (Yff/Escott). Unanimous approval.

Public Comment: The special music on Sunday was great. The piano in the chapel has been tuned.

Treasurer Report: As of 10/31/21, the balance in the general fund is \$4,640 which is covering all of our expenses. Parking lot donations through October are \$9,682. Year to date collections are over budget through October. The memorial fund for Peggy Boyce so far totals \$1,200.

Moderator Report: Planning meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2021 at 6:30 pm. We should think about setting up Zoom opportunities for those who are reluctant to drive after dark. The SS/Donut Club proposed changes will be presented at this meeting.

Clerk Report: Gerald Bekken passed away on 10/25/21 at 97 years old.

Delegate Report: Pastor Sarah went to MCCCC meeting on Friday night and Brockington attended the conference via Zoom on Saturday morning. Unfortunately, the power went off in Clarkston so was unable to access the conference after that.

Pastor's Report:

Audio Update

Hoekstra Electric has changed out the dimmer switches but unfortunately it hasn't eliminated the buzzing. The electrician is fairly sure the issue is between the bulbs and the dimmer switches. They are ordering a specific dimmer switch to try and see if this helps.

We have obtained another quote on the new audio system which is substantially lower in cost but without a lot of the options we wanted. Will be consulting with Parkway to compare the two quotes.

We should be aware that the new audio system should be able to transition to new updates/improvements in the future. Discussion regarding ceiling fan updates.

Heritage Sunday

The potluck sign up sheet is filling up and a flyer has been prepared for the neighborhood. No specific requests for the service other than having the usual stuff.

Advent Overview – Close to Home

We will be using a curriculum from A Sanctified Art called "Close to Home". Scheduling special music and signing up poets to read the weekly poetry reflection is ongoing. Advent devotionals will be sent out with the December newsletter. Pastor Sarah is looking for old blueprint pages. We will have a Christmas Eve and a First Sunday of Christmas service.

Congregational Care: Encourage shepherds to contact their people with holiday greetings.

Stewardship/Missions: Attended the Christian Neighbors annual meeting – they’ve helped 485 families and also helped with rent and mortgage assistance and electrical and heating assistance. A load of items were brought to the new thrift store in Hudsonville run by Grant Me Hope.

Worship Arts: Looking for special music through the next two months. Music for Heritage Sunday will be simple, possibly singing familiar songs acapella. Christmas tree set up and decoration date will be November 27 at 10:00 am.

Building Updates: Parking lot drain was cleaned out. Shine will be coming in to cleaning the gutters. Four hosta’s were planted by the new sign. Fall clean up went well although the parking lot will still need to be cleared since all the leaves haven’t fallen yet. Handicapped doors were fixed but there are possibly still some issues with it. Discussion regarding quote for new front doors from Lakewood Construction Two sets of double doors along with fixtures, demo of old doors and installation of new doors came in at \$11,242. Possibly wait until spring to install these new doors.

Christian Ed: The theme for October was ‘Gratitude and Stewardship’ however due to spotty attendance, only one Sunday School class was actually held. On December 19th, children will stay in church to participate in the “whole church” Christmas program. Sunday School Director position has still not been filled. An email was sent to all parents outlining Sunday School and Donut Club activities/leaders in November.

Community Life: Continuing to encourage members to sign up for coffee hour. Six people attended the Halloween Party held inside on Friday, October 29. A sign up sheet has been posted for the Heritage Dinner on November 21. Looking forward to scheduling future events.

Old Business:

Stained Glass Project – Tabled

Generic Sabbatical Plan for Church Call Letter Package – Moved to December

Sound System Updates – Covered in the Pastor’s report

Chimes – trying to get started in December

New Business:

Artwork in the Narthex – Some ideas were discussed and will be presented as a separate project

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

Bible Study – Lectio Thursdays at 12:30

Sunday Service – every Sunday in person, rebroadcast online on Wednesdays.

Next Board of Ministry Meeting – December 13, 2021 at 6:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Janna Rudich, Clerk