

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SAUGATUCK**  
**BOARD OF MINISTRY**  
**October 11, 2021**

**Call to order:** Moderator Brockington at 6:34 pm.

**Present:** Rudich, Escott, Gentry, Raue, Boyce, Brockington, Yff, Terlouw

**Absent:** Rusiecki

**Also Present:** Pastor Sarah Terlouw

**Minutes:** Motion to approve the September 13, 2021 minutes with correction (Yff/Boyce). Unanimous approval.

**Public Comment:** Change to thank you letter procedure. Instead of one person sending all the thank you letters, each letter should come from the captain for which the note pertains.

**Treasurer Report:** As of 09/30/21, the balance in the general fund is \$2,062 so we will probably have to take a draw from the unrestricted Heritage Fund to help with expenses. Parking lot donations through September are \$9,564. Preparations will start for the 2022 budget so numbers can be reviewed. The Women's Fellowship bank account was closed at TCF and will be combined with the general fund checking account. However, the funds will have a separate line item on the balance sheet.

**Moderator Report:** Brockington & Pastor Sarah attended the WMCCC meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup> in Lake Odessa. Around six other churches also attended. Discussed how churches are emerging from COVID, looking into what worked now and what didn't work before. Donations were made to several organizations. The dues for the WMCCC & MICCC should be raised to \$100.

**Clerk Report:** There was a wedding on September 25 (Goodwin/Herweyer) and a funeral (Peggy Boyce) on October 6

**Delegate Report:** The MCCC meeting will be on October 16 in Clarkston, MI. Pastor Sarah will attend on Friday night and Brockington will attend on Saturday.

**Pastor's Report:**

**Organ Repairs**

Bob Ruddy submitted a report on repairs needed for the organ. One person was found who would be familiar with repairing the type of organ the church has. However, since he lives down south, he would charge \$3,000-\$4,000 just to come to Michigan to fix it which would not include any parts or labor needed. Discussion regarding if fixing the organ would be worth it and what other options we would have.

**Visitor Welcome Gifts**

Currently we are offering a gift bag featuring a mug, brochure, note from the Moderator and a few other things to our visitors. Pastor Sarah has another idea that might be easier and be just as welcoming. We would have cards in the pews and visitors would be invited to fill out the card along with choosing a ministry of choice to which the church would send a donation. This would also offer a convenient follow up when we send them their donation receipt.

## **Finding the Right Balance With Our children's/Family Programming**

Sunday School as it is now is functioning but not sustainable. We are using the same volunteers over and over which is wearing them out. Also, parents with young children are asking for programming other than just during the worship service on Sunday. These are suggestions that will be brought up at the Fall Planning Meeting:

**The Pond:** During worship hour, we would offer student programming in 'The Pond' which will be a single classroom. Students can either remain in worship or attend 'The Pond' It would be run by our Student Ministries Director and curriculum would be aimed at upper elementary level.

**Grilled Cheese Wednesdays:** This program would start up again but would be more PF in nature and would replace the current Donut Club. Pastor Sarah would run the program along with a church volunteer.

**G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together):** This program would be a once-a-month intergenerational worship service on Sunday evenings. It would feature dinner, music, a lesson and a table activity. Family groups could stay together for this program which would encourage parents and grandparents as our children's primary spiritual influences. This program would be led by Pastor Sarah and the Student Ministries Director

**Building/Grounds Report:** The drain in the parking lot is being cleaned out. Two companies have been consulted for front door update ideas. Possibly consider naming the doors in order to avoid confusion. Will get quotes for striping and possibly sealing the parking lot which would probably be done in the spring. Fall clean up day is November 6. Also need to schedule gutter cleaning.

**Christian Education Report:** Attendance has been stable so far this fall. The duo teaching format started in October and are scheduled through December. Escott will continue to teach Donut Club through May and find volunteers to staff Sunday School through May also.

**Community Life Report:** Fellowship Hour is going well. Halloween party will be on October 29 at 8:00 pm. Cindy Raue will be bringing firewood. Phyllis Yff will help with figuring out and setting up the movie. The information will be included in this months' newsletter. The Heritage Dinner is scheduled for November 21. There will be a potluck with a sign-up sheet beforehand.

**Congregational Care Report:** No report

**Stewardship/Mission Report:** The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Christian Neighbors is Saturday, October 16. Grant Me Hope opened a thrift store in Hudsonville. The annual meeting of Christian Neighbors is October 21 when we will find out what we need to contribute to the Thanksgiving basket. Crop Walk will be 40 years old next year – we should consider donating our contribution in honor of Peggy Boyce.

**Worship Arts Report:** Working to get special music up and going again – a short article will appear in the newsletter asking if anyone has something they would like to share. Another idea is to have a hymn leader to introduce a couple of new songs from the hymnal.

**Old Business:**

**Sign Letter Storage** – Still looking

**Stained Glass Project** – Tabled

**Sound System** – They will be coming back this week.

**Generic Sabbatical Plan for Church Call Letter Package** – Discussion on the draft Sabbatical Study Leave Policy. Motion to add the Sabbatical Study Leave Policy letter to the call letter package. (Raue/Boyce). Motion passed unanimously.

**New Business:**

**Sabbatical Plan for Pastor Sarah** – Tabled until a pastor relations meeting has been held.

**Chimes** – St. John's Church has offered to loan has their set of chimes and all equipment needed for the chimes for a period of two years. Discussion on how this would work.

**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 – November 8, 2021 at 6:30pm**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.**

Janna Rudich, Clerk