

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SAUGATUCK
BOARD OF MINISTRY
September 13, 2021

Call to order: Moderator Brockington at 6:30 pm.

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

Also Present: Pastor Sarah Terlouw, Myrna Dornan

Absent: None

Minutes: Motion to approve the August 9, 2021 minutes (Raue/Yff). Unanimous approval.

Public Comment: Thank you to Gregory Muncey at SDABA for letting us do bake sales during Music in the Park. Thank you to Jerry Brunink for working on our stained-glass window. Thank you to Phyllis for helping when the computer crashed and getting it replaced and working again. We need to have the new piano tuned and appraised. Peggy Boyce would like a plaque in honor of Jim Boyce placed by the handicapped door. The handicapped door is not working at this time.

Treasurer Report: We still have not had to take any draws from the Heritage Fund which is amazing. The Heritage Fund is up by \$111,836 over last year. The unrestricted balance is at \$219,143. August expenses were more than usual because of the purchase of the new sign and repair of the old sign. Parking lot donations through August are at \$8,009.

Moderator Report: Have located two possible stained glass restoration companies.

Clerk Report: No report.

Delegate Report: The WMCCC meeting is September 18th in Lake Odessa.

Pastor's Report:

Online Worship/Sanctuary Audio

Pastor Sarah met with someone from Parkway Electric to go over updating our sound board and technology. He provided a quote for a completely new audio system for the church which came in at approximately \$23,000. Discussion regarding if all of the items in the quote are needed, should we switch to a digital system or stay with an analog one. We definitely need to do some type of update since our audio needs have increased especially over the last year. We are in a good financial position right now to spend some money on church improvements like this. After much discussion, the decision was made to seek another quote for a similar system. Motion to pursue another quote for a similar audio system. Gentry motioned, Raue seconded. Unanimous approval.

The Return of the Monthly Newsletter

We have not been putting out a monthly newsletter for some time. There is a lot of information in the Mid-Week News but still not the same as a newsletter. Should we still put one out monthly or would quarterly be better. Should we mail the newsletter out or possibly set up texting info. We will try to get a monthly newsletter out starting in October or November.

Policy Manual

We need to update the church policy manual which might be a good project over the winter. We should have up-to-date job descriptions, how-to guides, hiring practices, safety procedures, etc.

Building/Grounds Report: Have placed a panel over the hole where the drinking fountain was. Getting bricks to put around the base of the new sign. Noticed that the light was out on the new sign. Ralph Birkholz wondered where the memorial plaque was that had been on the old sign. The elevator is working again.

Christian Education Report: The mural in memory of Diana is complete. Donut Club began on September 12. Considering having the older kids in the worship service on the first Sunday and having them help out by being ushers, readers, greeters, etc. Bible were given to two kids, one other one was absent. Since we still don't have a Sunday School director, we are hoping to set up a way to keep Sunday School sustainable through the 2021/2022 school year. The months/seasons would be divided into themes. Would have two volunteers per month to co-teach or divide Sunday School duties between them. An email was sent out to those who had volunteered over the summer plus some extra people.

Community Life Report: The last bake sale was Wednesday, September 8. After deducting the amount that was given to Fellinlove Farms, the total proceeds for the sale were \$1,183.75. \$592.00 will go toward new church doors, \$197.25 will be given to each of the three other charities - Rotary Boys & Girls Club, Douglas Park Project and the Hazardous Waste Day. Fellowship hour volunteers are signing up. Tried to set up a movie night/dinner but was limited by the times that the movie was showing. Homecoming potluck was very successful, Bob Gladstone did a spectacular job on washing all of the dishes. Will be organizing a drive-in Halloween movie night. It will be Friday, October 29 at 8:00 pm. We will have a campfire with smores and show the movie 'Casper'.

Congregational Care Report: Handed out Dottie Hauser's new address so that people could send her cards.

Stewardship/Mission Report: The Crop Walk was September 12. Our church raised \$2,410 and between both churches we raised \$10,772. The annual Christian Neighbors board meeting is October 21 so we will be getting our food assignment for Thanksgiving baskets after that. We still have produce that is ready from the gleaners garden.

Worship Arts Report: Ordered Sanctified Art for Advent.

Old Business:

Sign Letter Storage – Need a storage box for the new sign letters. There are a lot of options at an office supply store.

Stained Glass Project – covered in New Business

Fall Faith Development Retreat – Still in progress – might be doing something in November.

New Business:

Stained Glass Project Progress – Myrna Dornan presented information regarding the stained-glass window project. She showed pictures of the stained-glass window that has been stored offsite for some time. Jerry Brunink has been putting a lot of work into evaluating the window and the placement of the window in the church. At this point, a decision needs to be made if we're going to go ahead with having Jerry restore the window. There are companies that would fully restore the window but it would be very costly and would probably take several years. Grants might be available but someone would need to write one. Moving the window would cost approximately \$900. Motion to contact Jerry Brunink and inform him that we are going in a different direction and ask him if he would like to be compensated for his time spent on the window. Raue motioned, Connie seconded. Unanimous approval.

Draft Generic Sabbatical Plan for Church Call Letter Package – The board reviewed the draft sabbatical plan for the church call letter.

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 – October 11, 2021 at 6:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Janna Rudich, Clerk