

December 11, 2024 Council Minutes

Present: Moderator Terry Buchmann, Moderator-elect Bob Brandemuehl (2025), Moderator-elect Kay Rowntree (2025), Treasurer Jean Bocker, Secretary Joanne Himebauch, Pastor Mark Hensley, Janine Coley, Jamie Pennington, Beth Petersen (Zoom), Rae-Ellen Preuss, Sue Roberts, Michael Zvara

Absent: Karla Pennington

Call to Order & Opening Prayer by Terry

Approval of the November 13, 2024 Council minutes. Jamie moved and Michael seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Devotional Time - Pastor Mark. Letting go....2 Corinthians 5:14-21

New Business

Welcome new council members - Bob Brandemuel (Moderator), Kay Rowntree (Moderator-Elect)

Pastor Mark becoming a member - Jamie. Pastor Mark's membership needs to be approved by the Council. Jamie moved and Kay seconded to approve Pastor Mark as member of FCC-Mukwonago. Motion carried.

Jamie moved and Jean seconded that the Church Council of First Congregational Church does hereby certify and confirm the unanimous vote of those members in attendance at the November 17 meeting in the affirmation to name Pastor J. Mark Hensley as the next settled pastor. Motion carried.

Updates from Pastor Search Committee - Jamie. We need to do a **Vicinage Council** prior to installing Mark officially. We need to set the date as a Council and then do the **Installation**. We picked Saturday, March 1. (We later discovered that March 1st would not work for a Visinage Council and Installation. So we chose **March 29** via email.)

Jamie moved and Rae-Ellen seconded that in response to Mark Hensley's expressed call and the leadings of God's Holy Spirit we do set apart Pastor Mark Hensley for the Christian Ministry through the solemn act of installation of the next settled pastor of First Congregational Church. Motion carried.

Jamie moved and Janine seconded that we bid the churches of the Wisconsin Congregational Association, by Letter Missive, to be present, by Pastor and a delegate (or two delegates if there is no settled Pastor), at 10:00 am, on Saturday March 29, 2024, at our Meetinghouse (231 Roberts Drive, Mukwonago, WI) in Mukwonago, WI, to review our proceedings with respect to

the Installation of Pastor J. Mark Hensley, to meet and hear the candidate, and to advise us with reference to the same; and if judged fitting, to proceed with us to the Service of Installation to be held at 2:00 pm on Saturday March 29, 2024. Each invited Church shall be entitled to one vote and a quorum for the Council shall be present if seven invited Churches answer the roll call.

The Churches to be invited are all of the Wisconsin Congregational Association.

We authorize Pastor J. Mark Hensley, Moderator, and the chair of the Pastoral Search Committee, to develop the list of those to be invited to sit as honorary members of the Council, and

We direct the Pastor, the Moderator, the Chair of the Pastoral Search Committee, and the Church Secretary to prepare and send the Letter Missive. Motion carried.

We will need a continental breakfast, a luncheon served, and then treats afterward. Each church can sit for the questioning. There will be 2 rounds of questions. Then, we leave the room and the Vicinage discusses and makes a recommendation. Rae-Ellen suggests a committee to help. Jamie and Kay felt that the Search committee could do that.

11 pm Christmas Eve Service - Janine. Ryan Venema expressed that he was disappointed that there wouldn't be an 11 pm service. Janine was, too. Others did, as well. Could we have a late night service? Yes, we decided to have an 11 PM service. How do we get on the Village Marquee? Jean will ask about banners and the marquee. What about child care at 4:30? Sue will ask Lydia Mathew (or one of her friends.) Joanne will let Marni know that we would like her to play at the 11 pm service.

Pastor Mark asked Rae-Ellen if she could preach, but she declined due to family matters.

Office Manager position updates. Jean. Judi had requested to work remotely. In October, we told her that we would give her remote work a 6-month timeline. In November, we decided to start looking for a replacement, since Jean didn't want to do it for too long. We will most likely have a difficult time finding a replacement for her. She will continue to work for the Haase House, as well as a third job. 7.5% of what she does cannot be done remotely. Joanne moved and Sue seconded to rescind our November decision regarding Judi's remote employment and to go back to our October decision to give the process 6 months starting December 15th, and Mark will be her point person. Terry will create a letter explaining the process. Motion carried.

Severance / parting gift for Judi & staff. There is \$450 in the budget for this. Joanne moved and Sue seconded to give Judi \$200, Marni \$150, and Rachel \$100. Motion carried.

Batzner Pest Control - Rae-Ellen- Greg & Linda G have been paying for pest control at the parsonage out of their own pocket. They would like to stop paying for this service and let the church pay for it. Sue thinks that we had that it was because Ashley Clark hated bugs. Batzner wants a credit card. We decided to stop the pest control service.

Bob asked about shutting off the water at the parsonage. We should do it and bleed the lines. Heat is kept around 55 degrees. Bob suggests putting antifreeze in the drains and toilets. Bob offered to do this. Rae-Ellen will give Bob a parsonage key.

Anything from the floor? Janine welcomed Kay and Tom and we thanked Terry for her two years of service as Moderator.

Old Business

Directors' Reports - nothing else to report.

Closing Prayer - Terry

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Himebauch
Council Secretary