Community Congregational Church of Clinton Heights UCC

Board of Deacons/Council Meeting

Minutes of December 13, 2023

Meeting started at 7:31 pm on Zoom.

Members Present: Tom P, Brian F, Nicole F, Bob H, Bruce G, Julie K, Tina K, Tracey P, Joanne B

Other Attendees: Reverend Kenny

Members Absent: Cindy M, Elaine W

Opening Prayer was said by Reverend Kenny.

The Secretary’s Report was read. Bruce made a motion to approve it. It was seconded by Tracey. The motion was carried.

The Council Financial Secretary’s Report was read. Tina made a motion to approve it. Tracey seconded it. The motion was carried.

The Council Treasurer’s Report was read. Joanne motioned to approve the report. Bruce seconded it. The motion was carried.

The Deacons’ Treasurer’s Report was reviewed and approved.

The Visitation/Elder Conversation Report was discussed. Tracey said she sent Christmas cards to several members of the congregation and to some former attendees who haven’t been in church for a while. Thank you, Tracey!

Advent/Holiday Worship Plans are in place. The Advent candles have been set up and different families will do the readings each week. Tracey volunteered to light the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve.

OLD BUSINESS:

Our next monthly Fellowship Hour/Coffee Hour will be January 14. We need ask for volunteers to sign up to bring food and set everything up. We discussed if we should increase the Fellowship Hour to more than once a month. We tabled the discussion until after the holidays but agreed it should be done gradually.

The church sign has been updated by Carl.

The battery-operated candles are in the window. Julie had them working when she was there but we need to show others how to turn them on and off.

We will discuss possibly joining the Town with an Easter Egg Hunt after the holidays.

Tom sent 2 emails to Ricoh but has had no response yet regarding toner for the printer. Our contract with them expired in September.

Tom put markers around the property to mark off where the snow plow should go. Some of the markers have reflectors but all of them are visible.

We need to table discussion about the Deacon’s budget because Elaine was going to do it but she is absent this month.

Nicole is still willing to work on the Google Docs but she needs to find time and a willing participant to work with her while she tries to set it up for ‘non-editors’.

Bruce will pick up the flowers on Saturday and they will be in the sanctuary for two weeks.

Bruce will obtain the Advent readings for December 24th. There will be two readings at that service.

The scholarship account has multiple signers now and is all set.

Elaine will do the PowerPoint for the Christmas Eve service.

NEW BUSINESS:

A thank-you card for the donations for the military from Amy Severson, the mother of Braelyn Severson who is in the Army, was read. The card was given to Tina who will forward it to Bruce, along with a picture of Braelyn. Bruce will put it on the screen for the congregation to view.

Bible study will start on 1/3/2024 at 6:30. Reverend Kenny will order 10 Pathway Bible Study books. The teacher’s guide is $5.50 and the adult books are $4.50. A reminder will be given to the congregation so they can join the study.

The church received a refund check for $339.62 from 2021 for Employees Withholding. The payroll service we used at the time must have taken out too much. We will put it in the general fund.

Brian said he had a discussion with Cindy when they were cleaning the church. Brian brought his brother who belongs to a group called Life Song. This group will clean the church, but it must be done in a vocational way. Brian will contact Scott at Life Song, to see if they would like to clean the church, shop for shut-ins, mow lawns, etc. It is a volunteer group but is prohibited from taking a job away from a paid employee. Brian will also look into any insurance impacts.

Tracey volunteers at ConsernsU and they desperately need personal items and detergents, soaps, size 4/5 pampers. We will collect these items and she will take them to ConsernsU on the third week each month. We will also take the money from the Can-do fund and buy whatever we can to meet their needs. We will also incorporate something for the Foster Parents group once we determine their needs. Reverend Kenny made a motion to make a monthly donation of something ConsernsU needs and Tom seconded it. It was unanimously passed.

Tracey will reach out to Anne and Dick Wark’s children to make plans to have a birthday celebration for Anne in late January and to honor Dick. They did a lot for our church when Dick was alive.

Reverend Kenny told us his pastor at Riverview, Pastor Graham, gave Reverend Kenny permission to do Pastoral duties, such as perform baptisms, marriages and officiate at funerals. Reverend Kenny will also be able to preach at our church on the first Sundays of the month. He will still need to be at Riverview on the fifth Sundays. He will also like to be paid monthly, starting the first Sunday in January.

Reverend Kenny left the meeting and the rest of us discussed giving him $200 for Christmas. We also discussed if we should write up a formal document indicating Reverend Kenny will perform the Pastoral duties and he will be available the first 4 Sundays each month. Should we consider him an interim Pastor? Will he want to become a full-time Pastor at our church? Then we would have to put him on the payroll. While he can be an interim Pastor, we may have to check with UCC to see if he can be a full-time Pastor, since he is not UCC. We will wait to see what Reverend Kenny’s plans are to discuss further but we should find out ahead of time about being under the UCC umbrella if he wants to become full-time.

Reminders:

Our next meeting will be January 10, 2024.

Tina made the motion to adjourn the meeting at :8:55. Tom seconded the motion.

Deacon of the month for January is Brian.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Boel, Secretary