

Community Congregational Church of Clinton Heights UCC  
Board of Deacons/Council Meeting With Rev Kenny  
Minutes of January 21, 2024

Meeting called to order at the Church and on Zoom at 12:10 pm.

Members Present: Cindy M, Elaine W, Tracey P, Brian F, Bob H, Bruce G, Julie K, Tina K, Joanne B

Members absent: Nicole F, Tom P

Guest Present: Rev Kenny

The Leadership Team requested to meet with Rev Kenny to discuss each other's expectations now that Rev Kenny is available to be a full-time Pulpit Supply.

Bruce outlined a brief agenda consisting of Rev Kenny's dates of availability, Rev Kenny's technology knowledge for PowerPoint, payment methods, worship styles and Rev Kenny's expectations of us, the Church. Bruce invited everyone to add to the agenda, if we choose.

Rev Kenny began by stating his expectations of us as a full-time Pastor Supply. Rev Kenny's pastor, Pastor Graham, has authorized Rev Kenny to perform baptisms, lead communion, perform christenings, marry people and lead funerals. He may not take the title of "Pastor". He is currently doing catechism to be ordained. In order to be ordained, he needs a church to pastor. When he first considered coming to our church, he researched UCC vs. Baptist and found we are mostly parallel. One difference is a Baptist baptism is full immersion and they do not baptize babies or those who cannot understand baptism. The person must request to be baptized.

Rev Kenny is now available to preach each Sunday. He said the Leadership Team runs the Church and he needs to see how he can fit in to help us grow, resume Sunday School and take over home visitations.

Rev Kenny was asked if he would perform a baptism on an infant or a child who was before the age of accountability. He said he would christen an infant.

Rev Kenny explained as a Baptist, a child would ask for a baptism. Then the child would come up with their parents and God Parents. The God Parents would raise the child in a Christian home, both spiritually and physically, if anything should happen to the parents.

A concern was raised about the phrase “Born Again”, which is not used in UCC. In addition, UCC does not believe in hell. Rev Kenny responded by stating the Bible states there is a heaven and a hell. And “Born Again” relates to baptism. The Bible says a person goes to a watery grave and comes up a new person....they are born anew or born again.

It was brought up that beliefs of UCC is our interpretation, how we interpret the Bible. We are used to a general and broad view of what God expects from us and how He expects us to respond to situations. We are not used to just Bible stories although they are interesting and educational.

A member of the Leadership team responded that we should not ask a Baptist minister to change to UCC. Rev Kenny is doing a great job. Everyone agreed he is doing a good job. However, perhaps we could hear a broader range of who we are, a UCC church.

Rev Kenny said he is hearing some things that are not necessarily unique to UCC. He originally looked on the surface to find differences between Baptist and UCC and found we were mostly parallel but he will look deeper to see where UCC diverges from Baptist. He will keep an open mind but if he finds something that contradicts what the Bible says, we will be at a crossroad.

It was stated that we have had several ministers and each one has their own style. Other ministers have made changes, such as the wording of the doxology. We must adapt.

Rev Kenny was complimented on his engagement with the children. They are getting a lot from our services. Eventually, we would like a Sunday School.

The treasurer asked if he wants to be a permanent supply pastor and be paid monthly. Rev Kenny said he will be a permanent supply pastor for now, and he agrees to be paid monthly. Once he is ordained and becomes a Pastor, then he may want to be on the payroll.

Rev Kenny was asked about his timeline. He said he would not be ordained until after March. His Ordination will take place at Riverview but his Installation will take place at our church. He also would like to take two weeks off in the year. He advised he has sources at Hudson Baptist Association to take his place during those weeks. We advised that we have sources as well, so we can determine which option to use as his vacation time gets closer.

For budget planning, we will have to review our budget. We do not feel we can afford a full-time minister. Rev Kenny advised that once he is ordained, we can sit down again and discuss if he will be full-time, part-time and monetary issues. Until then, he will serve as a supply with pastoral duties as needed. As we grow spiritually and physically, he would like us to eventually run on tithes. He has some ideas on how we can obtain money and he won't wait until he is ordained to share his ideas. He would like to bring his ideas to us for us to decide if we want to consider them, as we run the church.

Tina will have the budget for 2024 sent to all of the Leadership Team for us to discuss at our next board meeting on February 14, 2024.

Rev Kenny said his first full month with us will begin in March. We already had someone scheduled to preach on the first Sunday in February but since that person must travel far to come to our church, we will ask her if she'd like cancel it now that Rev Kenny is available each week.

We agreed that we will move Communion Sunday back to the first Sunday of the month effective March. It was changed to the second Sunday when Rev Kenny was unavailable on the first and fifth Sundays of each month.

Julie made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:02. Elaine seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Boel, Secretary