Community Congregational Church of Clinton Heights UCC

Board of Deacons/Council Meeting

Minutes of October 11, 2023

Meeting commenced at 7:32 pm on Zoom.

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

Members Absent: Elaine W

TAKE AWAYS:

Bruce- Send an email to the congregation that includes a link to the form Nicole made with an invitation for them to click the link to put their contact information on file.

Bruce: Send an email to the congregation for them to vote if they would like Christmas Eve services in the morning, afternoon or evening.

Tina: Prepare proposed budget for 2024 to be reviewed on October 22, 2023 after church.

Tina: Call Key Bank to inquire who they have on file as signers and if we need one for the new Scholarship Account, do they have to go the East Greenbush Key Bank.

Opening Prayer was said by Bruce.

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

The Council Financial Secretary’s Report was read. Tom made a motion to approve it. Brian seconded it.

The Council Treasurer’s Report was read. Tom motioned to approve it. Tracey seconded it.

The Deacon’s Treasurer’s Report was reviewed. Tina made a motion to approve it. Brian seconded it.

The Visitation/Elder Conversation Report was discussed. Tracey said she sent cards and letters to shut-ins in September. Her dedication to our elders and shut-ins is much appreciated. Nicole has a form that congregational members can fill out to keep their name, address, email address, date of birth (year not required) and important dates, such as anniversaries on file. The information will go on a spreadsheet that only the Editor has permission to view. Bruce will send out an email to our members with a link to the form.

OLD BUSINESS:

Projector Repairs: The projector is out for repair. It should be back by Wednesday, October 18, 2023. (Tom)

New Locks: New locks have been installed on all of the doors. The keys have been distributed to those who wanted one. Item has been completed.

Lock Box: The lock box has a new key and has been secured by the fire marshal. Item completed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Budget: The Leadership will meet on October 22, 2023 after church to review the 2024 budget draft. Tina will prepare the proposed budget. It is not necessary to have Rev Kenny at this meeting.

Upcoming Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve Services. Because Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, we will leave it up to the congregation if they would prefer to have services in the morning, afternoon or evening, or a combination. Bruce will send out an email for votes, to be completed by Election Day. Rev Kenny should be included in the preparations.

We will need to set aside a Saturday after Thanksgiving for the Leadership to get together at the church to clean and decorate. Julie will take care of the decorations. Julie also ordered the Advent candles.

Outdoor sign: It was suggested to start putting catchy sayings on the sign in front of the church to attract attention. Carl K used to do it. Julie will ask Carl if he would like to resume changing the board.

Church Facebook access: Tom and Cindy are administrators of the FB account, however, anyone can add a picture or comment. It was suggested that we not include pictures of our children. We need to also be sure the camera used for our Sunday services, which are streamed on Facebook Live, not include the children. It was also mentioned that a cell phone is used to stream FB Live which causes a mirror image, such as transposing hymnal numbers. Tom said using a laptop camera would be better. Someone said they tried using a laptop camera and it was too bulky. Tom will try it this Sunday with his laptop.

Church Pre-holiday celebrations: Our church used to have Easter Egg hunts and Halloween Parties. We would like to include the community in our festivities, however, it takes months of planning. Maybe we can do a “Trunk or Treat” next Halloween in conjunction with the Police Dept and Town Offices. We will have to start planning this next February. If the town does an Easter Egg hunt, perhaps we can contribute/assist to get our name out in the community. We will need to add to the agenda to contact the town, or Parks and Recreation to discuss our involvement.

Snow Daddy: Snow Daddy was advised last winter their services were no longer needed due to the lawn being ripped up. Tina’s nephew does snow plowing and he agreed to do our church as the same price our previous plower charged us. Tom had already emailed Yard Art to request an estimate to plow us, but he had not heard back from them as of this meeting. If we don’t hear back, we will hire Tina’s nephew.

Key Bank Signer: We opened a new account for a Scholarship Fund with money from the CD that was cashed in and we need an additional signer for that account. Right now, Tina is the only one. In order to become a signer, you need to set up an appointment and go in person to the bank. It was asked if it has to be the East Greenbush Key Bank or can we go to any Key Bank. Tina did not know. Julie and Cindy are signers on other accounts and there may be other people listed as well. Tina agreed to call the bank to find out who they have on file as signers and if we need another signer, do they have to go to East Greenbush?

Church Cleaning: Julie’s grandson is no longer available to clean the church. The Leadership team will clean the church the second Saturday of each month. Tracey agreed to clean the bathrooms if there are no spiders.

November Deacon of the Month is Bruce.

Tina made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:49. Bruce seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Boel, Secretary