

First Church Congregational Council Meeting

January 23, 2024; 7:30 pm – Hybrid (Sanctuary Lobby/Zoom)

Agenda

Call to Order

In attendance:

- Vanessa Rose
- Todd Sample
- Patty Bilotto
- Jim Meisner
- Michelle Velez
- Craig Way
- Rita Skog
- Wendy Williams Brown
- Kim Stevens

Invocation was given by Wendy Williams Brown

Approval of minutes from October and November Council Meetings

Board Reports

- **CMI Sound System Proposal: Frank**
 - Sounds system for the hearing impaired; invoice provided; Compared to another service provider - identical
 - Motion to approve invoice for \$4,137.50 for the hearing impaired approved unanimously
 - Improve sound system over all
 - Motion to approve invoice for \$2,648.00 for overall system improvement approved unanimously
- **Pastor's Report: Vanessa**
 - Installing David Spollett as Pastor Emeritus was wonderful
 - Christmas pageant went well
 - 30 year anniversary on Sunday January 21
 - New Liturgist, Cathy Williamson, has begun
 - Fellowship has gone very well
 - Artists Way has begun and a large turnout +20 people
- **Resource Development: Michelle: Stewardship campaign/pledge updates; Three Kings Bazaar Debrief; upcoming events**
 - Rita suggested that we place a reminder in the Herald and Weekly Word
 - 10 new pledges for 2024
 - Three Kings Dec 1 2-8pm \$4,500 revenue (\$1,500 from Square); sold ALL baked goods; hot chocolate was a nice new addition; Could use more baked goods next year; lots of people

came in after the tree was lit; if we do a tag sale next year, we can allow for drop off well in advance; Cathy Kane's niece can facilitate a pop-up for vendors

- Upcoming events: Memorial Day - homemade carnival idea
- **Finance: Jim Meisner**
 - Motion to pay down \$100K of total mortgage principal ~\$280k for 636 Old Post Road approved unanimously
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- **Facilities: Craig Way: Update on New Roof Over Connecting Corridor**
 - \$50k request will be proposed to All Church meeting in Feb 23
 - Signage for inner doors from parking lot to save heat
 - Craig will send his report
- **Worship: Wendy Williams Brown**
 - Pastor Dinner in two weeks
- **Outreach: Rita Skog**
 - Recap: coming into care for families in transition; Mercy Learning Center; GBCC has new director and staffing; CONECT was here Sunday; Racial Justice goal to have a closer relationship with First Baptist, Feb 3 we'll be at the Ruby and Calvin Fletcher AA History Museum with First Baptist
- **In-reach: Elizabeth Hayes**
 - N/A
- **Faith Formation: Kate Brown**
 - John Harmon will conduct last session
 - Weds AM Bible study with Vanessa
 - Artists Way is going well
 - Dean Lindsey will present in the Spring
 - Events continue through Lent

New Business

- EV Charging Station was tabled at the last meeting; discussion ensued. This remains tabled until another proposal that is less risky to the Church is presented.
- Motion to approve hearing assistance system and addition of two microphones in Sanctuary / Frank Martignetti; approved unanimously
- Application for State Grant for Security Measures
 - Albert and Jacque are working on it
- Retreat in Spring in March or April
- Arlene's Funeral will also be in the Spring
- Eagle Scout project: blessing box for non-perishable items; free library with children's books
 - Todd Sample will bring these back with more rigor and details

Future Meetings

Council Meetings are the 4th Tuesday of the Month

Next Council Meetings: February 27, March 26, April 23, & May 28

Devotional Leader for February

Benediction

Adjourn