

**First Church Congregational Council Meeting**  
**October 22, 2024; 7:30 pm**  
**Eunoia Room / Google Meet**

**MINUTES**

Call to Order

Attendance:

- Rev. Vanessa Rose
- Michelle Velez
- Jim Meisner
- Craig Way
- Rita Skog
- Patty Bilotto
- Kim Stevens

Absent: Todd Sample, Wendy Williams Brown, Kate Brown, Elizabeth Saint

Invocation

Approval of minutes from the September 17, 2024, Council Meeting

**Board Reports**

- Pastor's Report: Rev. Vanessa Rose
  - CONECT (Congregations Organized for a New Connecticut) Event last night:
    - o Governor attended (with chief of staff) to address clean slate delay
    - o Secretary of State also attended
    - o Compassionate speech despite anger about delays from those waiting and relying on it
    - o 283 people attended
    - o Great energy (150 showed up early for sandwiches)
    - o Volunteer team was amazing and space was great for connecting (warm and welcoming space)
    - o Church is being utilized to welcome community (monitoring to ensure not too full and that people respect the space)
  - Attendance low last Sunday (lots of people sitting in back)
  - Confirmation started
  - Wednesday morning bible study
  - Happy with the team
- Resource Development: Michelle Velez
  - Pledge letter went out
  - Jane spoke last week at the 10:15 Service
  - Council leaders to be early pledgers
  - Need Vendors for 3Kings
  - Mike Traum will do hot chocolate for 2025
- Finance: Jim Meisner
  - Thanks to Jacque for helping fill it out budget
  - Will ask everyone to come back with their 2025 budget by Halloween
  - Rent increase letter needs to go to GBMS (consider TurboTenant to collect rent and automate the rental increase)
  - Endowment income is in "investment income"

- \$238k Kreidler Outreach Fund will be an endowment fund and will be for the outreach committee to support other organizations (not items for regular budget and don't want it to be church use)
- Facilities: Craig Way
  - Report provided
  - SHR Energy – meeting to discuss energy incentives (look for new doors/windows)
  - Ben Lee – knowledgeable about selling tax credits (ppa)
  - Solar – possible for Jones Wing
- Worship: Wendy Williams Brown (no report)
- Outreach: Rita Skog
  - Tutoring program after school (\$1,200)
  - Other opportunities to give
  - Cloister program last year. Could we underwrite if people can't afford it?
  - Great service with first Baptist better energy (appetizers better for socializing than formal lunch)
- In-reach: Elizabeth Hayes (no report)
- Faith Formation: Kate Brown (no report)

### **New Business**

- Kitchen/Wakeman Rev. Vanessa
  - Wakeman Abatement of ceiling done
  - Wakeman Floors just completed
  - Town Building Inspector required \$48k hood (vs \$18k hood)
  - From the Remembrance fund, we will purchase plastic folding tables to replace the old heavy ones

### **Future Meetings**

Council Meetings are the 4th Tuesday of the Month

**Next Council Meetings:** November 26, December TBD (fourth Tuesday is Christmas Eve)

**Devotional Leader for November:** Jim Meisner offered to be the leader for November.

**Benediction** Rev. Vanessa

**Adjourned**