

First Christian Church Council

Minutes

January 25, 2023

(Meetings are scheduled for the 4th Wednesday of each month @ 4 p.m. unless otherwise published.)

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

Hebrews 10:24-25 NLT

Items	Notes			
Opening (Sandy Pendergraft)				
Review of Notebook Materials (Sandy Pendergraft, Moderator)	Moderator Pendergraft gave a brief overview of documents in the notebooks provided for review.			
Consent Agenda Information (Sandy Pendergraft, Moderator)	Review of articles & explanation Basic information regarding protocol for handling items on the Consent Agenda was discussed.			
CONSENT AGENDA				
The reports in this section are routine discussion points grouped into a single agenda item that is considered in one action. Council members should review items prior to the scheduled meeting. If a Council member has concerns regarding a Consent Agenda item, s/he should request the item be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.				
Minutes:				
November 30, 2022 Minutes (Sandy Pendergraft, Moderator)	<u>INCLUDED IN THE COUNCIL PACKET EMAIL</u>			
Ministry Reports:				
Stewardship/Financial Resources (Ted Impson, Treasurer/Financial Steward)	SFRT Meeting Minutes—January 19, 2023 @ 3:00 p.m. Attending the meeting were Mike Morris, Ron Kreger, Marlena Freeman, Bob Corbin, Sandy Pendergraft, Council Moderator, Pastor Stephen Johnson, and Financial Assistant Arlene Stauffer.			
Bob gave the opening prayer. We welcomed the newest SFRT member Marlena Freeman. SFRT Minutes from December were reviewed without comment.				
Key financial documents for January 1 – December 31, 2022 are shown below. Note that income was up compared to 2021, excluding the PPP contribution. Expenses also increased primarily due to nearly full staffing costs.				
<u>Year</u>	<u>Income (YTD)</u>	<u>Expenses (YTD)</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Budget (YTD)</u>
2022	\$290,713.98	\$297,664.50	\$ -6,950.52	\$327,108.00
2021	\$329,418.87	\$281,799.01	\$ 47,619.86	\$327,000.00
2021*	\$283,573.87	\$281,799.01	\$ 1,774.86	\$327,000.00
*Less PPP contribution of \$45,845.00 through December 31, 2021				
Bob reported on the status of HVAC replacement project. Shown below are some key financial metrics. Note the cash on hand (sum of 5 accounts designated for this project) was reduced due to the November invoice payment.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Final contract with Ward’s \$263,200.00○ Ward’s invoice for November \$16,500.00, December not received○ December cash \$188,013.43○ November cash \$193,428.76○ October cash \$185,511.55○ September cash \$171,034.01				
Bob gave a Gerald Nield Trust update. Derrin Hiatt is representing 3 local non-profits (FCC, Marland’s Place, and University Center) in this action. A stay was requested until late January.				
Arlene reported that the balance of the 2022 Ponca City Utility averaging underpayment was paid in January. This will allow the payment for 2023 averaging to be calculated without supplement payments.				

Arlene reported that the church liability and property insurance cost and deductible is still under review. A new insurance company (Brotherhood through the Cushenbery Agency, Representative Jerry Riley) was contacted to get a bid. After a review of the church property and policies, a bid from this company should be received next week.

Arlene provided the following for 2023 Pledge update.

	<u>2023 Pledges</u>	<u>2022 Pledges</u>
Operating	\$239,380.80	\$242,349.60
Capital	\$51,483.20	\$35,682.24
Total	\$290,864.00	\$278,031.84

Ron gave the closing prayer.

Submitted by, Bob Corbin, SFRT Coordinator

Service Ministries

(Christy Thompson, 2nd Vice Moderator)

Friendship Feast attendance averaged about 150 per night for December. This was a significant reduction from the 205 meals served per night last October! Financial support of the meals was good in the month of December. Arleen Jacobson retired after 10 years of service on the FF Board. She was replaced by Genita Swanson.

Submitted by, Bob Corbin, FF Board Chair

The **Benevolence Program** has served 19 clients so far in January 2023. The need for the program remains high. Submitted by Bob Corbin, Benevolence Coordinator

Friendship Bikes is still on greatly reduced activity. We're considering how to resume open days etc. but COVID doesn't seem to be getting better and we are getting older and more susceptible to serious consequences if we do get COVID and have other medical impediments going on.

A little activity...

I fairly recently supplied a bike for a just turned 13 year-old 6' tall (and maybe a little taller) boy. Single mom, and from what I could tell, the boy is pretty much on his own much of the time and responsible. Mom was recently in the hospital and may have been transferred to OKC for some sort of special care but I think she is home now. The bike got stolen. I provided them with info and a picture so they could enlist help from the P.D. to try to recover it. I am following up on that and may supply the boy with a replacement bike.

Submitted by Mike Morriss, Spokesperson

Wee Care is active and thriving at First Christian Church. Our program maintains a consistently safe, supportive, and responsive environment for children two days a week. Currently, we have 18 children enrolled, four teachers, and one director.

The children in our care enjoy story time, music time, outdoor play, crafts, and much so more. Each classroom is filled with age appropriate toys and activities to encourage the children's growth and development.

Submitted by Jordan Meador, Wee Care Coordinator

Staff Report:

(Pastor Stephen Johnson)

Audio/Visual - Karen is organizing a directory update.

Financial - All transitions from 2022 to 2023 record keeping have been made. 2022 Giving Statements have been distributed.

Music - Bell Choir and Chancel Choir rehearsals have started and the music program is in the process of ramping up under the direction of Amy Boatman. Amy was selected by a committee of bell choir and chancel choir members along with Joyce Ketcher representing the Personnel Committee as Music Director beginning January 1, 2023.

Office - Annual personnel file updates are underway

Pastor - Stephen will be on vacation February 13th through 21st. Preparations for Ash Wednesday (February 22nd) and Lent are underway.

Approval of Consent Agenda:	<p>Reports not submitted prior to the Agenda publication or any Consent Agenda item requiring action will be considered under New Business.</p> <p>The Consent Agenda was approved. A discussion of Friendship Bikes was added to New Business.</p>
REGULAR AGENDA	
Old Business:	
None	
Other Old Business	
New Business:	
Fellowship Dinner(s) Review/Discussion	<p>Birthday Lunch</p> <p>The Birthday Lunch celebration was brought before the group for discussion. The group concurred that the event was enjoyable and well attended. It was suggested and agreed upon to plan fellowship lunches in months having five (5) Sundays with April 30 being the next date. Sandy Pendergraft will as the Inquirers to host this lunch.</p>
Appointment of Committees	<p>Review & consider</p> <p>Chair of Elders—Lois Corbin</p> <p>Chair of Deacons—Sheila Kirkpatrick</p> <p><u>INCLUDED IN THE COUNCIL PACKET EMAIL</u></p> <p>The committees and Chairs of the Elders & Deacons were approved as presented.</p>
Council Meeting Schedule	<p>Date; Time</p> <p>After discussion and in an effort to avoid a conflict with Chancel Choir, it was decided that the Council would meet at 3:30 (instead of 4:00) on the 4th Wednesday of each month.</p>
Communication to Members	<p>Prayer Chain?</p> <p>Pastor Stephen has created communication cards to be placed in the pew caddies that are for both visitors and regular attenders. These cards would allow individuals to submit prayer requests as well as contact information. The cards will be collected with the offering. Pastor Stephen is also considering creating a prayer group that would meet on Monday mornings to pray and reflect on these prayer requests and</p>

	<p>others that have already been named. It is recognized that this will not solve the issue of feedback to any not in the prayer group, but it would be a start. It was suggested that we “ask for permission to share” the prayer/health concerns to the communication card.</p> <p>It was suggested that we might add this information to the printed bulletin. This bulletin is posted to the public side of the website and for individual privacy and security, along with increased paper usage, it was decided this was not feasible. The Prayer Book used by previous clergy was also mentioned.</p> <p>Creating a MailChimp opt-in email group was suggested. The group decided to pursue this idea. It will require some administrative work, but can be done.</p>
Other New Business	<p>Friendship Bikes—Christy Thompson asked for additional information about how Friendship Bikes functions and what might be done to jumpstart this very important mission. Mike Morriss responded with a brief rundown of the various activities of the ministry and mentioned that, in light of COVID along with the age and health issues of the core team, it was unlikely that the ministry could return to its original format. Mike and Christy will meet to talk further about possibilities for program.</p>
Action List Items:	
Appoint Nominating Committee	<p>April-May</p> <p>Sandy Pendergraft asked the group to begin reviewing the expectations of the Nominating Committee and considering individuals who would be good at this mission.</p>
Announcements:	
Ash Wednesday Service	February 22 (5:30 p.m.)
Lenten Brown Bag Lunches	March 1-April 5 (12-1 p.m.)

General Assembly (July 29-August 1) In-person & Digital Options (Pastor Stephen)		Funding? Representatives? More information regarding this item will be forthcoming. The Assembly will be in Louisville.				
February Council Meeting		February 22 (Ash Wednesday)				
Attendance/Giving Report	January	1/1/23	1/8/23	1/15/23	1/22/23	1/29/23
	1st Service	0	15	17	8	
	2nd Service	43	49	57	62	
	Live On-line	19	20	19	?	
	Giving	\$ 3,464.45	\$ 2,970.88	\$ 3,488.70	\$ 16,703.11	

Additional Notes:

Sandy Pendergraft ended the meeting by thanking the Council members for agreeing to serve and encouraged them to review the FCC By-Laws.

Pastor Stephen closed the meeting with prayer.

MEETING ATTENDANCE (In Person or ZOOM):

☒ Sandy Pendergraft ☒ Judy Basham ☒ Christy Thompson ☐ Ted Impson
☐ Jackie Chitwood ☐ Jacque Hart ☒ **Mike Morriss** ☒ Ed Newport
☒ Charles Smith

STAFF

☐ Karen Adams ☒ **Amy Boatman** ☒ Arlene Stauffer ☒ **Pastor Stephen Johnson**

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE (LIST):

Ron Kreger (ZOOM)

NOTE:

Information in this font (Comic Sans MS) indicates minutes from the meeting.
The regular font items were included on the Agenda.