

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES (On Zoom + in person)
February 20, 2023

Members present: **Rev. Ruth Merriam, Dick Merriam, Dwight Cooper (chairperson), Gene Anastasio, Kitty Cogley, Patsy Tessier, Kay Gregory, Vicki Record, Rusty Greenleaf, and Pat McKee**

Joys and Concerns were shared.

The Secretary's report from January 23, 2023, was approved with corrections made.

Ministry Reports:

Lay Leader: Patsy stated that some congregation members were surprised that Pastor Ruth will be leaving in July. Last week, Nancy Bischoff alluded to this move and gave a reassuring sermon. There was a suggestion made that committee meeting be held after Sunday services. This is something we'll think about doing.

Sunday School: No report

Trustees: Rusty stated that the Trustees are looking to have the front pew removed soon.

Also, there doesn't seem to be any residual damage from the water leak previously, but Rusty will be meeting with the insurance company. Verizon has been in touch and sent a proposed lease for the Trustees to review. Verizon has been very good about answering any questions. Rusty must contact the insurance company to see how any changes Verizon makes effect the insurance coverage. The contract proposes a payment of \$18,000 a year for 5 years with a 2% increase per year.

Staff Parish Relations Committee: Patsy reiterated that Pastor Ruth will be leaving when her term is up July 1st. Douglas has been spoken to about his job performance and seems to be trying harder.

Stewardship & Finance: There have been no meetings yet this year as there are no issues to bring forward. Accounts are in the black with January and February seeing a positive cash flow. All bills through February have been paid and there is \$14,400 in the checking account.

Recommendations for the 2022 Church Audit were discussed. Primarily, the recommendation was for a back up or Assistant Treasurer. Pat McKee volunteered to step into this position.

*A motion was made, seconded and approved to have Pat McKee be the back up Treasurer. Rusty will contact Jim Hynson (as administrator of the church checking account) and have her name added to the account for access and to have Wendy Vigue's name removed.

Worship Committee: Ruth reported for Connie. Strove (meaning forgiveness) Tuesday is tomorrow. There will be a service at Randolph UMC at 5:00pm with a pancake supper. The Ash Wednesday service will also be at Randolph UMC at 11:00am. On Sunday, the next pulpit exchange will be held with Karen Munson coming to HAUMC.

Holy Week: For Palm Sunday palms and pussy willows will be used. Maundy Thursday will be at Randolph UMC with a pot luck supper and congregants will be sharing when they felt closest to God. Good Friday service will be at HAUMC. Easter Sunday sunrise service will be held at the Gardiner waterfront. Phil will be providing breakfast following that. Easter Service will be at 9:30am.

UM Women: The next meeting will be in 3/8 at 6:30pm.

UM Men: The next breakfast meeting is scheduled for March 11.

Caring Team: After the sing and visit to the Alzheimer's Unit in Gardiner, Sandy was asked to return. The group will be going back Thursday 2/23. Also, members have been helping out Jim Hynson with cleaning, walking his dog, and giving him a haircut.

Community Suppers: No report. UMW will be doing the supper in March and the Merry Mets in April.

Pastor's Report: On Palm Sunday a New Member Sunday will also be held. We will be welcoming two new members HAUMC, Cindy Malcolm and Darlene Young.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial Reports: The Memorial Fund currently has \$14,000 after the purchase of the electric piano and moving \$1,000 to the Benevolence Fund.

Benevolence: There is \$1,585 in the Benevolence Fund.

Old Business:

1. **Church Safety:** The local group has not yet had a meeting
2. **Church Pew:** Spoken of earlier.
3. **Electric Piano:** The piano was purchased for \$1,244. Those who have heard it state it has a great sound and is movable.
4. **Discretionary Funds and Using a Credit Card for annual payments:** It was thought a debit card would be most appropriate as no personal information would be needed to obtain one. Dick has four items with a yearly subscription purchased with his personal credit card. These items need to be turned over for the church to pay. A church related credit card or debit card is needed to do this. The four items are: Go Daddy (website), Church Directory (on our phones), Zoom, and Blue Host (domain name). A vote was taken via email and was approved to obtain a card for this purpose.
 - A motion was made for the church to obtain a debit card to be used only for the four items with subscriptions and Microsoft 360. If/when a new item comes along, it must be approved by the Administrative Council. This motion was seconded and approved.

New Business:

1. **Ukrainian Festival:** The Festival will be held March 26th from 2:00pm to 4:00pm and will be hosted by the Ukrainian couple from Wayne. The purpose of the get together is to share their culture.

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for March 20, 2023, at 6:30pm