

The Carillon, January, 2021

A monthly publication of the
~ First Congregational Church ~
Your Independent Worship Center

First Congregational Church Executive Council Minutes December 28, 2020

Present: Gary Hooker-Moderator, Pat Krehn-Vice Moderator, Ann Werner-Charitable Giving, Jack Butterick -Deacons, Stacey Church-Board of Christian Education, John Cooper-Board of Trustees, Jean Morehouse-Women's Fellowship, Jack Stewart-Technology Board, Susan Stewart-Clerk

Absent:

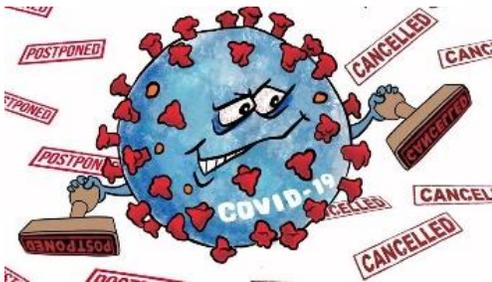
Gary Hooker opened the meeting with prayer. It was motioned by Gary Hooker to accept the minutes from the November 23rd meeting and seconded by Jean Morehouse.

- I. Public Comment - No public comment.
- II. Board Reports:
 - A. Charitable Giving – Ann Werner – no report.
 - B. Board of Deacons – Report was given by Jack Butterick.
 1. Congo Conversations were paused in December. The list of callers and recipients are being updated for January/February.
 2. Marketing – Front page color ads for Christmas Eve appeared in the Times Indicator Dec 16 and Dec 23. We will be in the Hi Lites Church Directory, in the first edition each month through June for \$10/month.
 3. Website update, Chair Judy – a website development committee of 12 is working on the content of our site. The committee includes the Deacons, Congo leadership/staff and Nancy Lindner. We have had two meetings and are off to a good start.
 4. Thank YOU! Pastor Jarvie – several gifts from the Woodshop and Crafters were given to Pastor Jarvie. Pastor Mark does not want to make the 8-hour roundtrip commute in the winter months but we may continue our relationship in April.
 5. Christmas Purse – checks were given to Mat, Deb, Lorene, and Pastor Jarvie. Thanks to all who participated.
 6. Deacons are enthused and appreciative of the progress created by Tech personnel and the excellent results in our Sunday services and Christmas Eve service.
 7. Thank you! Partners in our work. – Dean prepared an FCC note card with a special message, signed by the 2020 Deacons to 30 people consisting of staff, newspapers, people who did work, favors, donation of time and material.

8. Poinsettias from Altar – were delivered before Christmas to Shirley Brooks, the Lees, JoAnn DeKleva, Evanna Harden and the Sherman's.
 9. Board of Deacons for 2021 consist of Dean Morehouse, Jack Butterick, Bill Black, Judy Nadeau (carry-over from 2020) and new Deacons Stacey Church and Gary Hooker. There is not official Chairperson, and it is likely each Deacon will represent BOD at EC meetings.
 10. Pray Newaygo Team is complete. Thirty churches have signed up as of now. This is a 30 day prior to Easter activity and will receive appropriate attention in due time.
 11. Pulpit supply – Pastor Mark has made videos through the end of January. After that, Mat, Tim, and Gary will be in the pulpit along with some people we have enjoyed in the past.
 12. Planning 2021 – Spiritual growth, Adult Bible study, Dr. Packer, Small groups, prepare for a new pastor, Altar Call – at appropriate times.
 13. Jo Roth was contacted during Congo Conversations. Jo thanked the church for staying in contact but said it is time to say goodbye. She has not been to our church for 17 years. She will be removed from the lists and as a church member.
- C. Board of Christian Education – Stacey Church – no report.
- D. Board of Trustees – John Cooper
1. The Board of Trustees did not meet in December. November financials have not yet been completed but there are no surprises, and we are still doing well.
 2. Lorene is creating a notebook with procedures and directions for her job.
 3. We need an update from the Search Committee each month. It needs to be added to the agenda.
- E. Women's Fellowship - Jean Morehouse
1. Women's Fellowship did not meet in December. We will meet again in January.
 2. The carpet for the Fellowship Hall has been ordered.
 3. Crafts have been selling well at Susan K's.
- F. Men's Fellowship – no report.
- G. Technology Board – Jack Stewart
1. Retractable lighting for the steeple is looking like it is not economically feasible. We are now looking at ground lighting.
 2. Online services are going well. Regarding live streaming...Do we really need live streaming or is this just a catch phrase we have picked up on.
- H. Security Committee - Gary Hooker – nothing new.
- III. Stacey Church moved to accept the board reports. Jack Butterick seconded the motion. All reports were accepted.
- IV. Old Business
1. It was moved by John Cooper to remain closed for services through January. After that we will decide month by month. It was seconded by Stacey Church.
- V. New Business
1. No new business.

- VI. Gary Hooker closed with prayer and the meeting was adjourned.
- VII. The next regular meeting will be on Monday, January 25th, 2021 in the Fellowship Hall. A phone connection will be available for those who would like to call in.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Stewart, clerk



No In Person Worship the Month of January

The Executive Council met Monday night, December 28, and we have decided to remain closed through Sunday, January 31, 2021. We will continue with our online services during this time. The EC will meet again on Monday, January 25 and will discuss the status of the Covid Pandemic and whether it is safe to reopen the church for services, etc.

As a reminder, your offering can be mailed to the church. A trustee is checking the mailbox regularly or you can pay online on the church website at www.fremontfcc.org.

Thank you and God Bless,

Pat Krehn
Moderator

Church Office Closed:

Due to no in person worship for the month of January the church office is also closed. If you need to speak with the secretary, you are welcome to call Lorene at 231-282-0515 or email congo@fremontfcc.org

January, 2021 Meeting Dates

Monday, January 4 – 10:00 a.m. Women’s Fellowship Board Meeting
Thursday, January 14 – 6:30 p.m. Deacons’ Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Monday, January 18 – 7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting
Monday, January 25 – 6:30 p.m. Executive Council (Fellowship Hall)



January Birthdays

January 9 – Ponnie Foster
January 10 – Anne VandeKieft
January 10 – Eric St Peter
January 13 – Collin Zeerip
January 14 – Nathan McKivitz
January 14 – Terri Wahl
January 15 – Lauren Stroschin
January 20 – Ann Werner
January 21 – Mat Emerick
January 22 – Fran Stewart
January 24 – Garrison Frei
January 29 – Barbara Blass-Frisbey



January Anniversaries

January 2 – Van & Judy Nadeau
January 2 – Robert & Anne VandeKieft
January 22 – Steve & Karla Johnson
January 29 – Jack & Mary Butterick



Happy Anniversary

Our Church Family:

Please remember those who are home bound due to Covid restrictions and/or health concerns. And those who are in nursing homes and are not able to see their loved ones.

Evanna (Van) Harden returned home recently (around 12/23) after an 8 day stay in Mercy Hospital. She is recuperating at home. Her daughter is staying with her.

Bill and Millie Sherman have returned to their home on Emerald Lake. They have caregivers in the home to care for Millie. They also have arrangements made for the caregivers to make their meals so no help with meals is needed at this time.

Thank You for the lovely winter arrangement that was sent from the church. I am feeling so much better and I appreciate the prayers and concern, calls and notes from each one of you. I still lack some energy but am thankful for the recovery I have made.

Lorene



A Note from the Church Staff:

We so very much appreciate the generous gift from our church family!

It is truly an honor and blessing to be able to serve you all, the "CONGO!"

In Christ's Love,
Deb and Mat and Lorene



New Church Sign:

In case you haven't been past the church in the last couple months our new church sign was put in around Thanksgiving and looks great.



