



Minutes of the General Board
First Christian Church, Leavenworth, KS 66048
May 8, 2018
(pending approval)

Call to Order

The General Board Meeting was called to order by Moderator Kathy Powell at 7 PM in the Kitterman Room. Kathy presented the devotion, **Do Not Long**, from *Jesus Calling*. The Minutes of the General Board, January 9, 2018, the Called Congregational Meeting, February 11, the Called Board Meeting, April 1, and the Called Congregational Meeting, April 22, 2018, were approved.

The following ministries submitted reports.

We Affirm Our Mission

Worship: Dea Nicodemus/Penny Paradies: Vacation Bible School will be held July 16-22. On July 22, there will be one service at 10:30 to view the VBS program and then a pot luck dinner after the service. We are prepared for Pentecost Sunday, May 20.

Fellowship/Membership: Lois Steineker: Had a farewell cake and punch for Rev Dale on Apr 22 and had a pot-luck dinner on Apr 29 to say good-bye to Rev Dale and a welcome to Rev John L. Sowers.

Christian Education: Sue Hubert: Treehouse Treasures began a new quarter of **Gospel Light** material on Palm Sunday. We are using a prekindergarten/kindergarten packet that includes posters, flannel-board materials and a teacher guide and 10 sets of individual worksheets with stickers to do in class, plus a take-home paper for each child with discussion ideas for the parents. Also ordered a quarter of **Deep Blue One Room Sunday School**, with reproducible materials for middle school/high school Sunday school. On May 20, we will honor high school graduates Noah Kincaid, Caitlin Darting, Alexis Filley, and Raven Ramirez and police academy graduate Eli Bagley with a gift during worship services and a reception between services.

Elders: Joyce Bachtel: Made plans to have a get-together with Pastor John on May 15 at 7PM to get acquainted and enjoy finger food. Erin Sack led us in a discussion of the introduction and Section I of a new book we are studying, *Disciples Eldership – A Quest for Identity and Ministry*, by Peter M. Morgan.

Diaconate: Susan Hoins/Ruth Kenton: No report.

Youth Diaconate Representative: Ryan Matousek. No report.

Prayers of Thanksgiving for the Mission of the Church (Fran Gast)

We Present Our Offerings

World Outreach/Christian Action: Erin Sack: Pentecost offerings will be collected on May 20 and 27. This offering helps new churches get a start. Looking into investing in distributing food to other areas besides the Salvation Army.

Treasurer: Bob Euler: Both the new roof on the annex and the emergency sewer repair were paid from the building reserve account. Thanks to those who have continued to give to the building fund. We were able to pay \$24,000 without asking for extra giving from the congregation.

Finance and Stewardship: John Groves: No report.

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Foundation: Fran Gast: Officers have been elected.

Trustees: No report.

Prayers of Thanksgiving for Generous Stewards of God (Erin Sack)

We Celebrate God's Work

Property: Gary Kenton: A meeting was held on April 11, 2018. The following items were discussed:

- 1 **Trash pickup:** Talked about the security of the trash container and the need for having it locked.
2. **Cleaning for spring.** A work day/cleaning was scheduled for April 22 with a rain date of the 29th.
3. **Lighting.** Talked about the lighting in the Fellowship Hall and how it can be improved with additional fixtures and a change to LED bulbs.
4. **HVAC filters.** Setting up a schedule for changing them and having a contractor change the ones that are mounted on the roof.
5. **Building use.** Discussed having a written document/policy about the use of the church building and the fees that would be charged for the use of the different areas.
6. **Jack & Jill playground.** Talked about the need for maintenance of the equipment and grounds.
7. **Need the brick work checked on the bell tower.**
8. **Elevator operations.** Talked about the need to have additional people trained on the operation of the elevator and how to open the doors when there is a malfunction.
9. **Garden area.** Talked about planting and maintenance of this area.
10. **Tree trimming.** Discussed having someone do trimming of the trees on the church property.
11. **Projection equipment.** Had a report about the upkeep and possible replacement of the projectors.
12. **Baptistry.** Discussed the use of the baptistry for the Easter baptism.
13. **Termites in the front of the building.** Contacted ChemTech and they treated the area for \$250.00.
14. **Other items.** Discussed hand rails for the chancel area and additional lighting for the entrance to the Annex.

CMF: David Bryant: Will attend the Fair Board meeting on May 21. Leavenworth County Fair dates from July 24-28. Need many volunteers for car parking.

DWF: Diane Euler: Bought two new chairs for the minister's office. Gary Kenton and Richard Sack will paint the office.

Pre-School Committee: Sandy Bushman: Reviewed and approved financial statement from 9-1-17 to 4-30-18. Approved purchase of monitor and camera for security purposes. Reviewed and approved budget starting 9-1-18. Budget included 2% salary raise starting 9-1-18. Discussed advertising expense and how to reduce costs and improve pre-school awareness. Director reviewed new school year enrollment.

Evangelism: Jody Bryant: The team has met three times since the last board meeting. The first meeting was to organize our thoughts. Sent out letter inviting our non-active members to the April 29th dinner for Rev Dale and welcome for Rev John. Calls and follow-up letters were sent. Had five members attend on April 29 and seven on May 6. Visitor and non-active members' packets were given out to those attending.

The second meeting we decided to reach out to the Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops housed in our facilities, and to the Jack & Jill Preschool by inviting them to attend our summer activities (annual picnic and swim party and VBS in July). Follow-up letters were sent out to Preschool early part of July. We're hoping to have pictures of Dale and John and one of our scholarship recipients put in the *Leavenworth*

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Times. A suggestion was to have a group of our young adults meet with the team to discuss the question “What do we need to do to bring in other young adults and what are they looking for?”

The third meeting was held to discuss the success or non-success for follow-ups on letters sent. We established at an earlier meeting that the Ministry Architects program was needed. So, at this meeting, much time was spent on how the Evangelism team can fit into this program, which is basically geared to youth. Kathy Powell and Rev. John will be meeting with Monica Lewis and her team May 9 and that question will be asked and brought to our next meeting on June 12 at 3PM in the Kitterman Room.

Personnel: Kathy Powell: No report.

Two At-Large Members were present from First Service: Emily Bean and Deedie Thrasher. One at-Large member present from Second Service: Sandy Bushman

Prayers for the Work of Each of These Groups (Penny Paradies)

We Proclaim Our Ministry

Old Business: New roof was installed on the Annex.

New Business: Pastor John will receive a \$15,000 housing allowance.

A motion was made and approved to purchase an electric heater for the front door of the main building. Total funds of \$6,000 will cover the cost of the sewer line and \$2,255 for the heater.

It was approved to give Backpack Buddies \$1,600 to finish the cost this year.

Of the Gable money, 10% or \$8,000 came into the Foundation and some will be used for World Outreach.

Bob Euler presented a picture of the Disciples logo and First Christian Church sign to be placed on the back of the church so it can be seen from 5th Street. It will be lighted at night. The sign will cost \$3,500 plus cost of the sign permit. A motion was made and approved to buy this sign.

Dea Nicodemus suggested the Christmas Craft Festival be moved to Nov 4 and designated as the Fall Festival. This will help alleviate too many events in December.

Pastor’s Report: First, let me say how humbled I am to be offering this report as the pastor of this congregation. It feels like we are off to a running start. Since I began on May 1, I have been to make calls on those who are in the hospital and I also have been to visit members of the congregation in their home settings. In addition, I have signed the contract for our partnership with Ministry Architects. Plans are being made for the “Quick Start Summit.” As of the first board meeting, I also completed my first worship service with the congregation. I am attending our prayer group meetings. Many people have dropped in to the office to chat and help me get up to speed in the congregation. Also, I have made it my goal to become a visible presence with the Jack and Jill Preschool. To that end, I have dropped in downstairs, and, if I hear the children on the playground, I will pop outside to check in with the teachers and the students. It is a great joy! I will also be offering the opening prayer both nights at their graduation. I also attended the Jack and Jill board meeting. Meetings are a part of a pastor’s life and, as of this board meeting, I have attended the Evangelism Team Meeting, and a meeting for our upcoming VBS. I have also thoroughly enjoyed my evenings singing with the choir. For now, this seems to catch everyone up to speed. I imagine this report seems a bit scattered, but it has been a quick entrance into the life of the congregation.

On the horizon is my attendance at church camp, the “Quick Start Summit,” an installation, and VBS. If anyone has any questions or has feedback to offer, my office door is always open when I am in the office, and my cellular phone is armed and ready. It should be noted that my weekly day off is going to be Friday. I had initially planned on taking Monday off, but with the prayer group schedules, I believe it makes more sense to take Friday off. Once again, I am humbled to be walking alongside all of you.

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After prayers and concerns, Reverend John Sowers closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Sue Winneke

Secretary of the Congregation

As a remainder, our next board meeting will be on August 14, at 7PM.

List of Attendees:

Reverend John E. Sowers

Kathy Powell

Don Homan

Mary Sue Winneke

Bob Euler

Emily Bean – At-large, early service

Deedie Thrasher – at-large, early service

Sandy Bushman, - at-large second service

Dea Nicodemus

Sue Hubert

Diane Euler

Joyce Bachtel

Susan Hoins

Don Bachtel

David Bryant

Gary Kenton

Lois Steineker

Penny Paradies

Fran Gast

Erin Sack

Jody Bryant