

## December 2024 Wakeman Congregational Church Church Council Minutes

Moderator, Nathan Murdock, called the church council meeting to order at 7:00 on Monday, December 16, 2024, in the church outreach building. Pastor Janet Ross opened the meeting in prayer.

Those in attendance: Nathan Murdock, Moderator; Janet Ross, Pastor; Dan Green, Historian; Ken Green, Treasurer; JoDee Palmer, Diaconate; Brenda Friend, Steve Dillon & Pete Hazel, Trustees; Diane Garner, Missions and Financial Secretary; Susan Hazel, Clerk.

Pete Hazel moved to approve the minutes of the November Church Council meeting as presented. Dan Green seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Calendar Dates:

- December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Service 4:30 PM
- December 30<sup>th</sup> annual reports due.
- January 8<sup>th</sup> assemble annual reports.
- January 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Congregational Meeting following worship service.
- February 9<sup>th</sup> Installation of Rev. Dr. Janet Ross by Rev. Dr. Julie Murdock

Treasurer's Report – Ken Green reported that:

- A financial snapshot was included in the church bulletin.
- Last month had income of \$8848 and expenses of \$11,167
- For the first time in 2024, total expenses exceeded income by \$847.
- \$3500 in prepaid pledges has been received for 2025
- Improvement expenses are still expected for the Outreach Center
- \$475 was received for Operation Christmas Child. (19 boxes paid for at church, - a total donation of 66 boxes)
- DNS bill for \$190 subscription was discussed – Pastor Janet will investigate this bill – Is it a valid bill or a solicitation? Other computer-related monthly bills are \$884 for Microsoft and \$59 church plant media.

Pastor's Report – Janet reported that:

- Rev. Dr. Julie Murdock will install Rev. Dr. Janet Ross on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Plans for a reception will be made.
- No one registered for the Grief Share program. This will be offered again next year at an earlier date to avoid conflicting with holiday schedules.
- Pastor Janet did reach out to the Wakeman Fire Department following the recent local tragedy. The volunteers will be receiving professional counselling.
- Pastor Janet will be on vacation January 19<sup>th</sup>. Darnell will schedule a supply minister

Diaconate - Diaconate met on December 8th and JoDee Palmer reported that:

- The Diaconate organized the Christmas cheer bag project. Twenty-one bags were packed by the Adult Bible Study class. The bags were delivered by members and friends. In the future, members of the congregation will be given the opportunity to contribute to this outreach program.

- Diaconate will discuss details for the installation service and potluck which will be held in the Outreach Center on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

Trustees – Steve Dillon reported that:

- Trustees are seeking assistance in developing “guidelines” for the use of the apartment. Janet will help check into comparable guidelines for short-term housing situations.
- Furniture is being moved out of the parsonage in preparation for a potential sale of the parsonage. The parsonage is currently unoccupied and costs approximately \$5,500 per year to be maintained.
- January 2024, investment account balances were \$250,000 with a transfer out of \$10,000. The current investment balance is \$272,000 at the end of 2024.
- At this time there has been no response from Janotta and Herner regarding a quote for additional work related to the lift system.
- **Ken Green motioned and Brenda Friend second that the congregation consider at the annual meeting in January the sale of the parsonage located at 22 Cooper Street. Motion passed.**
- Hartland Heating and Cooling followed up today regarding the state inspector’s report concerning a blow off valve for the church boiler system. Hartland will remedy the issue to be in compliance and the warrantee will stay in place. Because the church heating system is commercial grade, the state will inspect annually. It was noted that the state inspector was very impressed with our current heating system.

Christian Education: Olivia reported that:

- The children’s Christmas program was very well done.
- The committee is looking into adding another class for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Christian Ed would like to establish a youth group.

Missions – Diane Garner reported that:

- The missions committee and volunteers managed to sponsor on December 7<sup>th</sup> – Cookies by the Pound, The Mini Mall, and The Clothing Closet. Everyone’s help was sincerely appreciated and so needed with the three activities on the same day.
- The \$1343 brought in by Cookies by the Pound (down slightly from 2023 - \$1375) will be designated to the elevator fund.
- \$147.10 was received in donations at the mini mall.
- A \$1200 donation from the Red Caps was received for the Clothing Closet.
- There was a great response for the Samaritan Purse’s Children’s Christmas Box Project. (total 66 boxes donated 35 online, 20 financial collections and 11 boxes filled and delivered by Pastor Janet)
- Firelands Cafeteria and ROY will be the Christmas Eve offering designations.
- Missions would like to help those in North Carolina and Tennessee devastated by the natural disaster in the fall with a special project this spring

Social and Reception

- The committee will be contacted regarding plans to work with Diaconate for reception potluck on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

Planned Giving / Stewardship – Diane Garner reported that:

- As of this date, 28 pledges have been received.
- Designation:

\$54,270	General Operating
\$10,770	Building Fund
\$ 250	Elevator
\$10,200	Where needed
<u>\$26,500</u>	<u>pre-paid</u>
\$101,990	TOTAL (Fewer pledging units but surpassed 2023 funds pledged.)

Historically, loose offering accounts for about an additional 24%

Moving Forward Team –

- Will meet in January

Music –

- Practice being held for choir and bell choir for the Christmas Eve service.

Nominating Committee: Melinda is making progress on contacts for nominations.

**Pete Hazel motioned and JoDee Palmer seconded that the council meeting be suspended. Motion carried.**

Pastor Janet excused herself and Steve Dillon opened the budget committee meeting. He reviewed the Trustees' line-item considerations for 2024 actual expenses and 2025 proposed budget. Pledges for 2025 were considered in limiting budget increases for next year.

**Following discussion, Nathan moved, and Diane seconded that the recommended budget totaling \$125,850 be presented to Church Council. Motion carried.**

The budget committee meeting adjourned and Moderator, Nathan Murdock resumed Church Council meeting.

**Ken Green motioned, and Pete Hazel seconded that the proposed budget be supported and presented at the Annual Meeting for a vote of the congregation. Motion carried.**

Old Business: None presented

New Business:

- Ken Green encouraged council to host an ecumenical service and potluck with St. Mary's. A mid-week service may need to be considered because the catholic communion is weekly and must be in their church.
- Passing of pew pads was briefly discussed.
- Financial Secretary, Diane Garner, created new forms for the counting and accounting of collections. Two designated Trustees will complete the count and form following worship. (An example is attached.) This new process should be easy and accurate.
- Nathan Murdock let Church Council know that he will remain on Diaconate but will not be serving another term as moderator. He offered to fill the role of moderator until a replacement is elected.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Susan Hazel, Clerk