

**Church Council Minutes**  
**March 4, 2026**  
**DRAFT/ NOT YET APPROVED**

**Present: Present:** Randy Garner, Kathy Nowlan, Dan Pritchard, Peter Harvey, Terry Burgee, Pastor Amy Lignitz-Harken, Wendy Ross, Joy Kacik, Annette Higby, Kayla Joy Cribbs

**The Minutes from the February 11 Council meeting were approved.**

**Treasurer's Report: Randy**

The budget report for January was sent to Council before the meeting.

The budget was basically the same as the previous month.

Terry asked about the origin of the Tikkun Olam funds. Randy stated that these funds come from a friend of Kathy Eddy's and are given to several organizations in Randolph on a yearly basis. Randy thinks Bethany should receive funds in March.

*The Treasurer's Report was accepted as written.*

**Pastor's Report: Amy**

- The Lenten Prayer Group will continue through Lent.
- The Worship Planning Team will meet this Friday to plan Palm Sunday through Easter. Marta Borgstrom and Hannah Smith have joined the Worship Planning team.
- Deacons are meeting on Saturday for an organizational meeting.
- The Transition Team is taking a break during Lent. They are working on summarizing the many congregational conversations that have occurred over the past few years in preparation for sharing with the congregation. After an all church meeting to discuss the results, there will be small group meetings to focus on specifics.
- The three introductory Circle Groups were well received. Amy would like to offer more Circles in March on more specific topics to keep up the momentum.

**Review of options for office space/ pastor's office**

- Peter reported that Trustees felt the best plan was to use the space we already have and expand the existing admin and pastor's space as shown in Alternate G plan from architect Richard Smith's proposals.
- The Admin space will increase to 75 sf and the Pastor's Office to 189 sf.
- It was felt that there should be some windows in the Admin office to let in light and to have a more detailed plan showing where furniture and supplies would go in the Admin Office.
- Joy suggested that we ask the architect if he could provide 3D images of what the space would look like from different points in the room.
- Dan emphasized that while Trustees could provide more specifics in the plan, the overall goal and acceptance of the renovation should be agreed upon by Council and the congregation.

*A motion was made that Council accept Alternate Plan G from the architect Richard Smith as the footprint and floor space for the Admin and Pastor's Office with a more detailed design coming from the Trustees to be presented for Council's approval.*

*Seconded. Passed.*

## **Communication of Council with Congregation -The Blast and in worship**

In the interest of open communication, Council will post the following documents in The Blast on a timely basis, with any new posting replacing an older one. Jenni will provide an ongoing link to these documents at the bottom of The Blast. We will ask Jenni to make them downloadable.

In the next Blast, we will put in a post about the work on creating a larger Admin and Pastor space.

Council Minutes (Draft)

Bylaws

Monthly or Quarterly Financial Report

Trustee Minutes

## **Committee Membership/ Activation**

- Search Committee- The Search Committee is being formed and will soon be complete.
- Stewardship Committee- Stu Chase and Annette have agreed to serve. The pledge campaign would run from April 19- May 10.
- Employee Relations Committee- They can get started once a Deacon is chosen to go on the committee.
- Nominations for Moderator and Clerk- no nominations put forward

## **Committee Reports**

### **Peace and Justice- Annette**

Annette is impressed with Vermont Interfaith Action and their strategic thinking and legislative engagement on important issues, such as housing. We have already been working with them on housing issues. She suggests we join for yearly dues of \$750. We will need to check with Randy to see where the funds would come from.

*It was moved that Bethany join Vermont Interfaith Action and provide annual dues of \$750.  
Seconded and Passed.*

Annette will make an announcement in church about joining VIA and promoting the April 11 forum, for which they will need volunteers.

The St. Patrick's Day dinner will not take place since the Randolph Area Energy Solutions group has received a sizable donation from Vt. Castings for heating assistance, removing the need for a fundraiser at this time.

## **Trustees**

Joy updated Council on training for the AED defibrillator device that we have at church. She had sent an email to Council outlining the different training options both online and with the ambulance service.

She feels that at least six people at Bethany should take the training in order to have enough trained people available in case of an emergency.

Council will vote on this proposal next month.

## **Other Business**

Wendy presented information from Stockbridge Community Meals CSA. They were asking if Bethany might want to be the CSA representative for Randolph. Council decided this was not possible, but that we would share their information with the congregation.

**Next Meeting: April 1 at 4 pm**

Respectfully submitted,  
Terry Burgee, Clerk