Skyland Community Church
Minutes of the Council Meeting on August 20, 2023

Members present: Reverend Melanie, Anne Evans, Jackie Seymour, Gina Palmer, Shannon Edwards, Gerald Alonzo, John Conkle, John Heyes

John C. opened the meeting at 1:01 p.m.
Opening Prayer: Reverend Melanie
Behavioral Covenant: John C.
Approval of the minutes of the July 16, 2020, meeting: Shannon moved to approve, Gerald seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

- Gerald noted that both pledges and offerings are below budget early in the FY. The budget variance is currently -$5,048;
- The Food Pantry has a balance of $5,790;
- Expenses in August 2023 include tree removal and exterior painting of the church.

Old Business: None
New Business:

A. Food Pantry

- Rev. Melanie offered to write thank you notes for recent donations;
- To date in August, pantry expenses are $566: July's amount was about $1,000;
- Shannon is checking new sources for obtaining food;
- Especially needed are milk, eggs, tuna, peanut butter, canned beans, soup, paper towels and TP.

B. September 9 Celebration

- Jackie requested coverage for the welcome table to give Gina some respite;
- John H. will provide the table with an information sheet about Skyland Community Church;
- Maps and signage will be available on the day;
- Clean-up should be organized for the sanctuary in readiness for Sunday's service.

C. Open and Affirming Statement and Rainbow Flag

- Rev. Melanie proposed including the entire congregation in a discussion of a revised ONA statement and adoption of a visible rainbow flag soon after the September 9 Celebration;
- Rev. Melanie also mentioned new materials that the UCC Open and Affirming Coalition has for helping congregations develop their welcome of LGBQT communities.

D. Social Media

- Rev. Melanie mentioned our Facebook page's usefulness in making our congregation's presence known.

John C. closed the meeting at 1:59 p.m.
Closing prayer: Rev. Melanie
Next Council Meeting: Sunday, September 17, at 1:00 p.m.
Minutes submitted by John Heyes, clerk