

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ASHFIELD, UCC
Trustees' Meeting
November 5, 2024 at 7:00 PM, at Ted Murray's house

Present: Holly Wescott, Ted Murray, Annie Cheatham (scribe), Patricia Donohue, Marie Fuller, Sam Schreiber, Allen Gabriel

Guest: Ann Gibson, Treasurer, Vic Gravel, Assistant Treasurer

Holly led an opening prayer.

Old Business

1. Approval of minutes from October 1 went smoothly with all voting to approve.
2. Financial review led by Ann. Grant funds are gradually being spent. Account balance has improved because of Fall Festival. The Trustees have authorized the Fall Festival Committee to determine the contribution to the town and encourages them to be as generous as possible. Ann said she would carry that message to the next committee meeting.
 - Ted has figured out how to access UCF accounts General Fund along with Ann, and they can transfer funds as needed from the UCF account to church operating account.
3. Building/maintenance/repair issues and status
 - Chairs for Minister's office have been provided.
 - Sanctuary fan noise has been fine for last couple of weeks.
 - Fire escape painting with Sam in touch with Eli Painters. Sam has scheduled an appointment with Eli and left a message with another recommended painter as well.
 - Electric bill submitted to Co-op Power to generate savings proposal. Ted is trying to make connection with them.
4. Meeting with Fall Festival Planning Committee and Chris Gray re: Scouts using space in our driveway is in planning stage. Ted is coordinating.

New Business

5. Distribution from Clarke Fund: As of November 1, 2024 the Clarke Fund balance at the church's Vanguard brokerage account was \$416,548. A distribution of **0.75%** (i.e., rate of 3%/year) would be \$3,125 (rounded to nearest \$5). **Motion to transfer \$3,125 from the Clarke Fund at Vanguard to the church's operating budget.** Motion passed unanimously.
6. Budget projections aren't ready yet, but may be better off than we thought we'd be at the beginning of 2024. Next meeting in December we'll look at first draft of the budget for 2025. Not sure yet if we will have to "borrow" from our surplus in Vanguard for 2025.
7. Insurance company is asking questions about our "safe church" policy. May need updating. Insurance company suggests that people who use the church have a certificate of insurance. Ted talked with Pat Thayer at the Food Pantry and will suggest to her that the FP needs to have its own insurance policy with church listed as "additional insured." The church does not have any management control of either the Food Pantry or Share the Warmth. Ted and Sam will continue to work on this.
8. Mice extermination brought up by Patricia. Abatem does extermination quarterly for Hardware and Country Pie. Patricia will follow up and report back at our December meeting.

Holly led our closing prayer.

Next meeting: Dec 3