United Church Council Minutes
November 24, 2024

Present (Officers & Delegates):Cody Church, Sarah Woltzen, Morgan Gerken, Carol Woltzen, Dick Dawson, Bo DeKramer, Eric & Amy Tieszen, Roger Ketcham, Doreen Fry, Karyn Montgomery and Michael White

Absent, if committee not represented (Officers & Delegates): Ivan & Katie Ortman, Jerry Bertelson

Call Meeting to Order (time): 7:30 pm by Council Chairperson Cody Church

Opening Devotion & Prayer: Michael White

Discuss/Amend/Vote on Agenda
Motion: Dick Dawson
Second: Michael White
Approve: yes

Discuss/Vote on Previous Meeting Minutes
Motion: Carol Woltzen
Second: Roger Ketcham
Approve: yes

Visitor(s) Sharing
(visitors limited to three-minute time limit)
- *No visitor sharing*

Pastor Report (see below)

Chairperson Report (see below)

Financial Report (see below)
(Committee & Treasurer)
- *Eric Tieszen presented 1st reading of the 2025 proposed budget*
- *Eric presented a few of the changes as compared to the 2024 budget*
- *Currently, no money in budget for possible Family Ministries Coord*

Committee Reports
(see reports below- if any action items are on committee reports, they will be moved down to "Action Items" below)

Vote on accepting Pastor, Committees, Financial, & Officer Reports
Motion: Amy Tieszen
Second: Bo DeKramer
Approve: yes

Previous Discussion Items Needing Action:

- Youth, and Vulnerable Persons Protection Policy & Sexual Harassment Policy
  - Motion: Dick Dawson
  - Second: Michael White
  - Approve: yes
- Policy & requisition forms for reimbursement
  - Motion: Amy Tieszen
  - Second: Dick Dawson
  - Approve: yes
- Council time change for 7:00 pm
  - Motion: Eric Tieszen
  - Second: Bo DeKramer
  - Approve: yes
- Church sign proposal (see two proposals / additional options in booklet)
  - Motion: Michael White
  - Second: Carol Woltzen
  - Approve: yes

Discussion Items

- Follow-up needs from children and youth ministries for possible Family Ministries Coordinator
  - *Cody shared responses to questions asked of youth leaders*
  - *Concerns regarding financial budget if added*
  - *Concerns voiced regarding burn out if not looked into*
  - *Council will continue to discuss and reach out to community members that have been involved in youth ministries*
- Questions posed by Chairperson, Cody Church, at September and October meetings for committees to discuss:
  - What is most exciting/rewarding about the ministry of United Church for you right now, and what is the most draining?
  - What was most exciting for you about this past year at United Church? What was the most frustrating?
- First reading of Children & Youth Behavior Policy
  - *Changes noted and discussed*
- Directory Update
  - Matt Anderson will help design the directory. Waiting to hear back from Mark's Photography in Armour, SD re: taking professional photos for the directory.
- Formation of a Policy Review Sub-committee
  - *Council believes yes we should*
- Please let the Lay Leadership Committee know if you have nominations for open committee positions.

New Action Items

- The Daycare Exploratory committee brought forward their daycare survey.

- Amy Tieszen made a motion to extend the daycare exploratory committee with a discussion to add members and report back to council February 2025. Dick Dawson seconded the motion. Council voted and the motion was approved.

Church council comments / announcements / upcoming events
(Any council members are invited to share comments or announcements related to United Church of Canistota or our community. No action taken on comments.)

Closing Prayer Cody Church

Adjournment (time): 9:44 pm
Motion: Roger Ketcham
Second: Amy Tieszen
Approve: yes

Next meeting date:

- ✓ Due date for *January newsletter* items – _____
- ✓ Due date for *Annual Reports* – Thursday, January 2, 2025
- ✓ Reminder: no council meeting in December.
- ✓ Next meeting is the Annual Business meeting on Sunday, January 24, 2025. The first council meeting of 2025 will follow.
- ✓ All church cleaning will be on December 8, 2024 after church.

Next meeting's opening devotion and prayer:

Reports Listed Below

Pastor Report
Pastor's Report
November 2024

This month, we join together in celebrating Thanksgiving, a time to pause and reflect on the abundance of God's blessings in our lives. It's a season to remember that gratitude is not just a response to what we have, but an attitude that shapes how we live, even in times of challenge. Thanksgiving reminds us of the power of community, as we gather around tables with family, friends, and neighbors, sharing not only food but also stories of God's faithfulness. As the psalmist declares, *"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever"* (Psalm

107:1). May this season inspire us to embrace a deeper sense of gratitude, living each day with hearts attuned to God's goodness and grace.

Ministry Notes:

- Hosted two communion chapel services at Good Samaritan Society in Canistota (November 10 & 18)
- Participated in Trunk or Treat on October 30th.
- Attended the Health Ministries Conference on Suicide Prevention at the Sanford Center on November 1st.
- Completed eight in-person visits/meals, zero pastoral care sessions, one hospital visits, three nursing home visits, and numerous phone calls and text messages throughout October.
- Participated in a pheasant hunt with congregation members.
- Attended the Embedded Ethics course every Wednesday morning at Sanford Medical Center from 9 am to 11 am.
- Met with a spiritual director once in November.
- Attended various school activities, including volleyball, football, and a Veterans Day program.
- Celebrated Veterans Day during the worship service on November 10.
- Blessed the Warrior Wagons on November 10. Guest speaker from the organization shared about the history and work of the ministry.
- Participated in the PCUSA clergy gathering in Sioux Falls on November 14th.
- Finalized and published plans for the summer 2025 high school mission trip to LaGrange, GA, scheduled for June 21–28, 2025.
- Held a GriefShare informational meeting on November 17 at 5 pm. Did not have any attendees.
- Continued serving in various leadership roles within the Canistota community: Canistota City Council, Canistota School Board, and Canistota chapter of the Lions Club. Additionally, served on the boards of the Sioux Falls Children's Choir, Charleston Court HOA, and missionary Kristy Engel's Missionary Partnership Board.
- Facilitated confirmation meetings twice in November (November 10 & 17).
- Continued facilitating the adult Sunday school class, utilizing *The Wired Word* curriculum.
- Continued work on the Doctor of Ministry program, with an anticipated completion date of February 1, 2025.

Upcoming items:

- Book Discussion (*Caring for Words in a Culture of Lies*) has been postponed twice due to my mother's hospitalization and transition to hospice.
- Upcoming baby dedication – Kalli & Brooks Fuller's child, Emalyn. Date is TBD.
- Family get-a-way on November 23-27. Amy Tieszen will preach on November 24th and Cody Church, and potentially additional elders, will assist in leading the worship service.
- Advent decoration will be held on Saturday, November 30 at 3 pm.
- A fundraiser entitled, *Cookies, Cocoa and Christmas Cheer* will be held on December 11.
- The bell choir will play in church on December 15, and the children's Christmas program will be held on December 22.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Jerry Bertelson

Chairperson Report

As we approach the hectic yet fun and spirited holiday season, approach it with a heart of gratitude. Your families will be busy. United Church will be busy. Roadways and cities will be busy. “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7). “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.” (1 Chronicles 16 :34).

Reminder that the lay leadership committee is beginning to work on nominations for open committee positions. If you have ideas for committee positions for your committee, please provide those names to Pastor Jerry.

Submitted by Cody Church

Financial Report

FUND	OCT 1, 2024 BALANCE	DEPOSITS	DISBURSEMENTS	OCT 31, 2024 BALANCE
GENERAL FUND	135,626.32			155,813.55
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	49,207.51			60,846.13
SPECIAL SERVICES	0.00			0.00
MUSIC-CHOIR FUND	124.25			124.25
SCHOLARSHIP FUND	41,234.53			41,234.53
RIVERSIDE CEMETERY	11,681.23			11,681.23
NEW CONSTRUCTION	215,417.99			269,402.99
MEMORIAL FUNDS				
UNDESIGNATED	8902.48			8902.48
LIBRARY	313.90			313.90
MUSIC	2079.48			2079.48
CD #4878	4,843.02			4,843.02

HORSE CAMP	4,334.41			4,334.41
TOTAL MEMORIAL FUNDS	20,473.28			20,473.28
RIVERSIDE CEMETERY UPKEEP	795.28			795.28

Trustees no report

Stewardship & Finance

Finance met on Sunday Nov 10th, members present were: Eric T, Dianne D, Brad S, Phil H, Cory S and Doreen F.

Budget reviewed and changes made for the purposed budget for 2025. Finance has a concern in regard to our budget, a lot of the budget is not controllable. We remain hopeful and trusting that our members, friends and God will continue their generous giving. Our purposed budget for 2025 is 253k approximately 13k more than 2024.

We have purposed a 4% salary increase for staff for 2025. Our largest expenditures are staff, property ins, and denominational support.

Discussion held on the use of church credit card. Due to council not moving forward on requisition sheets, no decision was made.

Discussion of additional support staff, after discussion with Pastor Jerry, we will hold on any additional staff for 2025 budget at this time.

Reviewed some approved expenditures coming: additional bells, outdoor sign and laptop computer.

Submitted by Dianne D

Christian Education

The Christian Ed committee met on the November 17th. We talked about the life groups and the Christmas play. We decided the play will be held on the 22nd of December. The play will require a couple narrators. The kids won't have any speaking parts. Just the narrators.

We discussed what the life groups would be about. We thought it would be a good idea to have multiple groups discussing different topics. For example, one group would be for parenting, another for marriage, another for single parenting, etc. We thought the groups would meet twice a month. We didn't decide on a starting date at this time.

Submitted by Michael White

Worship & Membership

Worship and Membership Committee had a meeting after church on Nov 10. Those in attendance were Nicole Perry, Beth Tappin and myself. We revisited the duties and commitments of the committee. We also discussed the questions posed by Cody Church to be shared at the next council meeting. We are decorating the church and tree in the Sanctuary for the Christmas season on Saturday, November 30th at 3 pm.

Submitted by Dick Dawson

Pastoral Relations

The PPR committee met on Nov. 10th. Our first order of business was to discuss the most exciting and the most frustrating parts of ministry at United Church. We talked mostly about the exciting things--more young families and children participating in worship, baptisms, the youth programs, Wed. night Shine program, confirmation. The committee reviewed and discussed at length Pastor Jerry's evaluation form that he completed and how the committee can be a resource to help him carry out his goals and priorities for the coming year. The committee also approved Pastor Jerrys terms of call for 2025. A recommendation for a salary increase was forwarded to the finance committee for their consideration.

Submitted by Carol Woltzen

World Outreach

In the past month, the mission committee has gathered and donated items for the wagons to go to the Warrior Wagons program. The committee also donated 500.00 to the Give a Gift program at school.

Submitted by Lindsey Mehlbrech

United Women's Society (UWS)

The "fall back" fundraiser for the backpack food program raised almost $2,000 on Nov. 3. Thank you to all who support this effort!! We purchased 4 tote bags for the Warrior Wagons. The wagons are given to families whose children have cancer and are receiving treatment at the

Sanford Children's Castle. UWS gave a $500 donation to the program at school for food boxes given to families at Christmas.

Submitted by Carol Woltzen

Member-At-Large no report

Elders Team
Cody Church and Amy Tieszen are in charge of Sunday morning church. Amy will be giving the sermon while Cody facilitates the rest of the service.

Submitted by Amy Tieszen

Commissioner to the Presbytery of South Dakota no report

Lay Member to Annual Conference (UMC) no report

Fundraising Committee
The fundraising committee met on Sunday, November 3rd to finish planning the appreciation event and discuss upcoming fundraisers. The committee hosted an appreciation event on Sunday, November 10th. It was a great evening of gratitude, praise and fellowship. Thank you to both praise teams for leading us in song, Chad Keller for speaking and Del Church for the delicious soup. The committee continues to run the Chase the Ace fundraiser with the Canistota American Legion. The committee has also led several activities in conjunction with Chase the Ace. Those activities have included Family Feud and a bean bag tournament. Those activities have been well attended so the committee will continue them. The committee is planning a fundraising event on Wednesday, December 11th called “Cookies, Cocoa and Christmas Cheer” at the church. Details are still being worked on but so far, the evening will include a performance by the bell choir, Christmas carols and cookies and cocoa afterward. Giving Sundays also continue on the second

Sunday of the month. Everyone is encouraged to follow and share the Building for the Future Project Facebook page.

Submitted by Sarah Woltzen