

Minutes of the Finance Council  
January 7, 2021

Present at online meeting: Michael Elder, Andi Nelson, Del Kimbler, Dave Sanders, Becky Turner, Rev. Christina Branum-Martin, and Petra Baer

**Stewardship Campaign** – Four members have not pledged and they will be contacted again. The original goal was \$155,000; to date we have received \$137,000. A unique donation solicitation for friends of UUFC, in lieu of a pledge package, may be created for the next campaign.

**PayPal Electronic Payments** – The processing fees are mounting as more people use the website button. This is not an insignificant amount, especially as a number of members are now using the recurring payment feature for their pledge. With seven months of data available, Petra will talk with Bing Johnson for his previous research in May 2020, Michael will query a contact, and Petra will update possibilities. Transparency to the congregation in the form of a Weekly Connection article was discussed.

**Staff Appreciation Fund** – Approximately \$900 was contributed to this fund and will be disbursed to eligible staffers this month.

**End-of-Year Reports** –The passthrough accounts listed in the Cash Management and Balance Sheet reports will be reviewed at a later date; the Trading Post account was of particular interest. The next refinance of the 5-year mortgage is in fall of 2022 and mortgage rates and refinancing were discussed. Planned Giving will be asked about availability of funds to pay off a portion of the mortgage. The final 2020 Income and Expense report was reviewed and Becky will adjust the FC Reserve for a break-even income and expense balance.

The Payment Protection Program (PPP) loan has not yet been forgiven. Michael noted despite repeated contact attempts, he thinks the system is overwhelmed. The online system shows that all requested information has been received; automated emails indicate that there is unspecified information needed.

**2021 Budget** –Questions, concerns, and small adjustments were addressed. Michael will send out a new spreadsheet for consideration. Concerns about 2022 were voiced. The 2020 \$21,000 PPP loan is a significant line item of the 2021 budget. Although a second PPP is available in 2021, it is not likely that UUFC qualifies, but it will be looked at more closely. Rev. Christina noted the cost of calling a new settled minister in 2022 could be delayed by opting to extend the interim term from two to three years.

**Fundraising** – The first fundraiser is a Valentine's bake sale. Other ideas generated at a December ad hoc meeting are on hold until the COVID vaccination and reentry plans provide further guidance. Petra will contact members with vacation homes to ascertain availability later this year.

**New Meeting Time** – The Council will meet at 7:00pm on the first Thursday of the month starting in February.

Respectfully submitted,  
Petra Baer