

Minutes of the Finance Council
March 5, 2020

Present at online meeting: Bing Johnson, Tom Hiebel (briefly), Becky Turner and Petra Baer

Donation Received – Jeannine Varenhorst has donated \$5,000 above her annual pledge. Thank you, Jeannine. The money will be placed in the FC Reserve account.

Unity Church Lease – The lease has been reduced from \$500/month to \$375/month.

Balance Sheet Review – Becky will review Account #2270, Minister Health Withholding, which currently is showing as -2,549.58. The UUA still has not issued a revised statement despite repeated calls from Becky. Petra noted that Account #2415, Staff Appreciation Fund, has not been distributed. Bing will follow-up with Michael Elder, Personnel Chair.

General Ledger Consolidation – Several pass-through accounts have small balances (\$50 and under) left over from completed work: hymnals, tree trimming and kitchen fund. Karen Hiebel will be consulted on the teen fund and RE trip line items (\$15 and under). These will be consolidated into active budget accounts. Bing will talk with the Board of Trustees about closing the Trading Post and it's pass-through account.

Live Streaming Possibilities – Should the need arise, the question is whether the Sunday Service can be streamed live. Bing will check the GSuites system and Petra will review our YouTube capabilities.

Sunday Tellers – Nine tellers have been recruited by Bing and training continues. One more teller is needed to fully cover months with five Sundays.

Credit Card Payment – Bing and Becky will review how the credit card charges can be reconciled by Petra within Power Church and the payment made online in a timely manner.

Fundraising

1. Annual Auction – Petra will oversee this year's auction. It will be conducted in three phases: Services (April 5-12), Goods (April 19-26) and Vacation Homes (May 2-10). Andi Nelson has agreed to canvass area businesses for donations. Three vacation homes are available: a cabin in Maine, a house on Pawleys Island, SC, and a condo in Canada.
2. Trading Post – Approximately ¼ of the inventory was sold on February 16. Additional pop-ups will be held to sell it off.
3. Souper Suppers – Petra has asked the Novel Circle to consider hosting a supper later this year. She will address the need for additional suppers at the Council of Committees meeting on March 8.
4. Belk Bi-Annual Fundraiser – May 2 is the spring sale date this year. Petra has offered assistance as needed to co-coordinator Sarah McNeill. Ticket sales typically begin three weeks in advance.

Road Signage – Petra gave a brief overview of her findings to date regarding a possible new sign. A simple manual letter sign at the maximum allowable size (6' x6') is approximately \$6,500 (one quote).

The current sign is as close to the road as the Clemson Zoning regulations allow (15' from the roadside property line). A digital sign has an additional requirement of 100' from any side property line, which would put the sign in the driveway leading to the sanctuary or more towards the Founders' House. A variance request, to place a digital sign in the general area of the current sign, requires submitting a sign size/design and location proposal for consideration. Petra will continue her research.

Advertising – Petra contacted the Independent Mail (Anderson newspaper) for advertising rates and will forward that information to Bing. Bing noted that taking advantage of \$10k free advertising via GSuites requires work on the website before it could be implemented.

Respectfully submitted,
Petra Baer