



4980 Gordon Ave N.W. Cedar Rapids, IA 52405 | www.peoplesuu.org | 319.362.9827

Peoples Church Congregational Meeting | December 8, 2024

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Quorum (20%) met: 30 members in-person, 5 proxies, 6 people on Zoom = 41 out of 95

The meeting was called to order by Robyn Miessler-Kubanek, Board President, at 12:15 p.m.

REPORTS

Minister

As a Beloved Community, our Shared Ministry supports everyone. With that in mind, and considering “the Ps of Ministry,” Rev. Carin Bringelson shared some highlights of the very intense last six months:

- Personnel: Three new persons hired to fill the positions for Faith Formation Director, Congregational Administrator, and Nursery Care Provider.
- Preaching: The many aspects of Ministry – worship, Faith Formation, Music and Worship Arts
- Pastoral Care: reaching out to members and families in the congregation going through the storms of life and establishing a Care Team by merging the work of Good Neighbors and Paraministers to offer meals, errands and visits.
- Promoting congregational life with the Membership Team to encourage participation in the congregation, recognize and engage the time, talent and treasure therein.
- Working to sustain and nurture the balance of personal, spiritual and professional life, especially while grieving her father’s death and the impact on self and family.

Introduction of David Kind, Congregational Administrator, to the congregation

Faith Formation

Celeste Downs shared her goals with the congregation:

- Include children and youth in all church activities;

- Help adults participate as students in Faith Formation to familiarize themselves and to build community;
- Reorganize the spaces including a Sensory Space, and a different play space;
- Sharing a Wish List in the Voice to involve the congregation in supporting FF;
- Continue the Annual FF Family Campout
- Have a Family Field Day or Activity Day
- Extend the successful Youth Co-op to the younger kiddos;
- Re-establish OWL for all age groups, including partnering with other liberal denominations (like the UCC)
- Gathering volunteers to participate as teachers, assistants, or joining the FF Committee.

Board of Trustees

Robyn reviewed the Board activities over the past six months, which focused on discovering **WHAT we need to do next** in *Planning Our Priorities* and developing a *Three Year Plan* to address church projects. To do so, the Board collected input on the congregation's goals and wishes for the next few years by holding several Listening Sessions. The responses were broken into two categories, leading us to:

HOW - two broad categories

- *Ministry* – the “soft” work of caring for the congregation and how it interacts as a Beloved Community, within the wider community, and the causes that match our mission. For example, we might begin to intentionally overlap the work of our teams to share energy, ideas, and effort towards shared goals.
- *Facilities* – the building and spaces in which we interact and worship as a home to our spiritual life. For example, we might begin planning a capital building project to improve accessibility.

WHEN - a three-year plan, allowing us to organize ideas and resources, plan and then execute projects, and update goals as needed:

- Year 1: identify projects
- Year 2: plan/prepare for them
- Year 3: execute

WHO - everyone

- You may already be participating in an existing Ministry team.
- The Board will also form a Facilities Team.

- PCUU needs people to examine our Mission and Priorities and create a plan.

NEXT STEP - Form Facilities Team.

2025 BUDGET PROPOSAL VOTE

Gary McGraw, Treasurer, reviewed the past year's financial report, saying the church was in good shape and there was a surplus due to staff turnover and the congregation's generosity. The Endowment is also strong, contributing to financial security in the future. Areas of need have been built into the budget, which he previewed for the coming year.

Motion to approve the 2025 budget for Peoples Church as presented by Gary, seconded by Rich Patterson. Approved by a show of hands.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Marcia Swift reviewed the many activities of the Social Justice Council: common reads, guest speakers and community activities in support of overlooked populations, LGBTQ+ support presence and voices as allies.

The congregation was asked to choose four exceptional organizations to receive our quarterly **First Sunday Plate Share** donations – **except, for 2025, we will collect donations on the Second Sunday of each month.** We thank you in advance for your generosity!

The organizations from which we choose today represent our current PCUU areas of concern: LGBTQ+ and Trans folk, immigration, and water quality. Results will be announced in the next *eWeekly*.

OTHER BUSINESS FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHURCH

Minutes from the May 2024 Annual Meeting were reviewed.

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Kathy Juba, seconded by Kris Davis. Approved by a show of hands.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:15 made by Steve Hershner, seconded by Kris Davis. Approved.