



Church Council Minutes

Date: Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: Chapel

Members: Stuart Gillette, Moderator Brian Love
 Jane Barker, Vice Mod Gy Menninga
 Beth Mrkvicka, Clerk Lara Miller
 Rick Ashton Connie Ronnow
 Jesse Cornman Deb Stracco
 Sam Dammers Lou Valsoano
 Janet Guevara Tom Wolford
 Bob Haisman
 Becky Kuntz

Church Julie Harley

Staff: Leah Fowler

Rob Leveridge

Marylen Marty-Gentile

Special Rick Pollock, Finance Chair

Guests:

Moderator Stuart Gillette called the meeting to order at 7:32 and opened with a prayer.

I. Sharing of Personal Practice of the Vision: Brian Love spoke of his appreciation and love for the Psalms, gained from a seminary level course he once took. Through the class, they came alive and transformative and he has found them to provide comfort in times of distress. He also struggles but finds teaching kindergarten church school a wonderful challenge.

II. Joys, Concerns and Remembrances: Concern was expressed for several members of our congregation in failing health, for our middle schoolers, a friend with cancer, an ailing father. Joys included two new foster puppies and a son's wedding. We remembered the life of the father of Ellen Everson.

III. Omnibus Motion: Approval of Council Minutes and Membership Report

Action: the minutes of the December 16, 2010 Council meeting and the Membership Report were unanimously approved.

Baptism: Romy Beatrice Auch, daughter of Robert and Amanda Auch

Condolence: Edward Martin, father of Ellen Everson, grandfather of Ian.

IV. Finance Report

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Rick Pollack reported that we have a small surplus which is less than anticipated due to unexpected building repairs. He shared a list of upcoming significant building repairs including those to our stained glass windows. Finance wants to work with Council to brainstorm ways to raise funds for these big-ticket repairs. Rick is also working on an Adult Education class on personal finances.

V. Big Picture Conversation – Buildings and Grounds

Our guest speaker for this topic was unable to attend due to a family emergency and will be rescheduled.

VI. Vice Moderator's Report: None

VII. Moderator's Report: Stuart provided an update regarding our termination of the Symphony's use of church space that had been previously approved at the December meeting of Council. After receiving our letter ending their use of our sanctuary and requesting the removal of their equipment, two additional meetings were held between church staff and representatives of the Symphony to see if future resolution was possible. No agreement could be attained in these meetings and the relationship is no longer mutually beneficial. Given the timing of exchanged correspondence, we extended the date for removal of their equipment to Friday, January 21.

VIII. Staff Reports:

- **Julie** – shared the agenda for the annual meeting which will focus on hospitality and our building. Reported that 14 people attended the Epiphany prayer retreat and that 150 people from around Chicago attended the Martin Luther King Empowerment Assembly. Rob Leveridge's installation will be at 3:00 pm on January 30 and a ceremony for anyone wishing to renew covenant vows will take place February 13.
- **Leah** –The Wednesday morning and UP Bible Studies have resumed and will run for 8 weeks. 20-25 people went to Villa Park for a Friday even meal and fellowship at the Islamic Foundation. We will host them on February 25. The FUSH winter retreat takes place this weekend.

XI. What did Council do tonight to live the Vision?

It was good to hear and know of the concern and care directed towards our ill members. Gratefulness was expressed for Brian's devotion and for the leadership of Rick Pollock with the Finance Committee.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Leah Fowler.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Mrkvicka, Clerk