

Church Council Minutes

Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2010
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Chapel
Members: Laurie Jolicoeur, Moderator Megan Lewis
Stuart Gillette, Vice Moderator Gy Menninga
Beth Mrkvicka, Clerk Lara Miller
Rick Ashton Dan Pietrini
Jane Barker Connie Ronnow
Elizabeth Crowell Deb Stracco
Bob Haisman Lou Valsoano
Becky Kuntz Tom Wolford

Church Staff: Julie Harley
Mark Buck
Leah Fowler
Marylen Marty-Gentile
Special Ally Vertigan, Intern from Elmhurst
Guests: College, Art Spooner and members
of the current Quest class

Moderator Laurie Jolicoeur called the meeting to order at 7:30 and opened the meeting with a prayer. Members of Quest who were present introduced themselves and shared one thing they had learned through this process.

I. Sharing the Spirit of Practice Elizabeth Crowell shared her experience as an exchange student last summer. She spent four weeks in Japan and learned that in the crowded, loud settings of every big city there were always temples, which provided a respite from the noises and chaos of the city. In these temple settings, she experienced a sense of spiritual serenity, calmness and nature.

II Joys, Concerns and Remembrances: Joys included a daughter's drivers license, braces coming off, strong new lungs for a friend, a wonderfully Model U.N experience, a nephew accepted to college. Concern was expressed for a brother who eloped and for the health and well-being of the Howells. We remembered the life of Adele Hoppe. We also spent time celebrating the life of Beth Drews, who died on February 15. We sang the song that was being sung at the time of her death.

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

Action: the January minutes, January 31, 2010 annual meeting and the Membership Report were approved by unanimous vote.

Baptism:

Feb 21 Cole Catherine Daly, Daughter of Christopher and Jessica Daly
Thomas Jeffrey Carter, son of Joshua Carter and Sarah
Deardorff Carter, brother of Madeline and Barrett

Death:

Barbara Downs, member 43 years, husband Robert
Bob, brother of Herb Zobel in MN
Myrtle Morrow, mother of Pat Morrow

IV. Big Picture Conversation – Where is the Vision Statement Leading?

As much as we may feel the need and desire to jump right in, choose a project or area to focus on and get to work, we understand that we need some time to reflect on all that we've heard about our Vision the last month. We are also aware that many members have not yet been exposed to it. Council spent time considering how best to continue communicating the message of the Vision Statement. Publicizing it in the Messenger Bell, a special brochure, the bulletin, additional presentations and through a series of Lenten e-votionals are some ways to promote it. We also would like every committee and group to spend time talking about the vision, using it to frame the work they do and purpose they serve. We also reflected individually how we are inspired by the vision and how we intend to implement it and act upon it for ourselves.

V. Staffing and Job Descriptions:

Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve the revised job descriptions for all pastoral staff. After discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

VI. Security Task Force: Dan Pietrini reported that after several break-ins and thefts, a task force chaired by John Zaruba was established to define the situation and brainstorm solutions. One of the big issues is how to control access to a building that is used every day by many groups without turning it into a formidable fortress.

VII. Seminary Intern Proposal: Discussion revolved around the desire vs. the need for another McCormick intern next year. Aware that it is both an investment of time, money and personnel, we also wish to support those seeking to enter the ministry.

Action: It was moved, seconded and approved that First United will accept an intern based on finding an acceptable candidate.

VIII. Moderator's Report: As a follow-up to Council's commitment last fall to work together on some type of mission project, Laurie brought forth information about a March 2 breakfast being held at First United on behalf of the Walk-In Ministry. Clergy from the

WIM service area have been invited to this breakfast to learn more about the WIM and its holistic approach to handling homelessness and panhandling. The hope is that interest will be built to coalition of congregations willing to work together with the WIM. Council's involvement will include setting up and providing food for this breakfast. Stu will be distributing a sign up sheet and coordinating Council's involvement.

IX. Staff Reports:

- **Julie** – reported that Mark Buck is committed to being here through February 28 but they are looking into the possibility of staying through Easter. The Pastoral Search Committee continues to work very hard. Gene & Ann Armstrong have volunteered to be Planned Gift Coordinators.
- **Leah** –described a Lenten art project planned for FUSH. She is going to Washington DC in March for Ecumenical Advocacy Days and is planning a mission trip to Colombia for this summer.
- **Mark** – Deacons have implemented a new method of getting and sharing membership needs with staff. They will also be getting the pink prayer card information each week. Ten people are in the New Members class that will join on February 28. Finally, he expressed his gratitude for the time he has spent at First United.

[Marylen was with the Questers.]

X. Where did you experience God or the Holy Spirit tonight? Appreciation for Elizabeth's depiction of her experience in Japan, through the words of our Questers, by singing the song Laurie brought and by feeling that God is on the cusp of our vision themes.

Leah closed us in prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Mrkvicka, Clerk