

## Church Council Minutes

**Date:** Tuesday, March 16, 2010  
**Time:** 7:30 PM  
**Place:** Conference Room

**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  
Leah Fowler  
Marylen Marty-Gentile

**Special** Ally Vertigan, Intern from Elmhurst  
**Guests:** College, Kathy Russell from the  
OPRF Food Pantry

Moderator Laurie Jolicoeur called the meeting to order at 7:30 and opened the meeting with a prayer.

**I. Sharing the Spirit of Practice** Gy Menninga just returned from a trip to India, primarily to visit his granddaughter, Elizarin, who is spending the year in Bhopal working at a clinic. He was impressed with the extreme poverty he witnessed and believes that Americans don't know nearly enough about other religions.

**II. Joys, Concerns and Remembrances:** Several people expressed the joy of reconnecting with old friends. Other joys included regaining physical strength and a year of sobriety. Concern for the Robinson family and remembrances of a great aunt, uncle and father-in-law were shared.

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

Action: the February 16th and 28 <sup>th</sup> Council Meeting minutes and the Membership Report were approved by unanimous vote.
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#### **Births:**

Ellie Hickok-Fletcher, daughter of Brian Fletcher and Robert Hickock, sister of Jackson and Henry  
Stephen Boardman Faust, son of Sara and Stan, brother of William

#### **Deaths:**

Adele Hoppe, member of 47 years  
Beth Drews, wife of Don, mother of Ellen and Tom  
Nina, sister of Anna Sadowski  
Suzanne Keller, member of 40 years, mother of Larry, Betsy and Andy  
Edie, mother of Carol Youngkrantz

#### **New Members:**

Jim Bailey	Jessica Janning
Jessica & Chris Daly	Adam Wilson
Tiffany Hilliard & Yolanda Quevedo	Nichole Harbauer
Lee Pennington	

#### **IV. “Visionista” Communication Plan**

Laurie gave an overview of ways the Vision is currently being shared and plans for the future. Currently the Vision is being promoted in the bulletin, Messenger Bell, Evotionals, and through committee work but we want to make sure it is communicated to those who did not attend the Annual Meeting or those who may not be as “connected.” It is believed that one of the best ways to promote the Vision is to make it visual. This can be done by setting up three stations in the sanctuary that show our vision at work. Members of the Vision Team are willing to continue facilitating conversations and Council is being asked to share their stories of living out the vision. The Vision will be a central theme at the Council and Committee Orientation in May and all committees are being asked to look at their purpose and work through the lens of the Vision.

#### **V. Big Picture Conversation – Engaging our Staff and Committees in Implementation of the Vision**

All committees and groups of the church are going to be asked to reflect on ways the Vision can be implemented in the various tasks and scope of each group. In the next few months, each group is going to be asked to discuss:

- the primary purpose of the group/committee (why does it exist)
- the secondary purpose of the group/committee (what are its commitments)
- how the group/committee purpose can be aligned with the Vision

Since Council is asking all groups to go through this exercise, we did it ourselves with the following results:

1. Primary purpose of Council – church governance, Big Picture leadership, provide guidance, serve the congregation, pursue and foster the WIG and model spiritual maturity.
2. Secondary purpose of Council – approve the budget, vote on new members, listen to the congregation, integrate ministries of the church, exercise fiduciary responsibility and take responsibility for decisions that are made.
3. How does Council, based on its purposes, intend to align itself with the Vision themes?
  - Words to Action* – continue to provide evotionals, promote the desire of Faith in Action to have 10% of our budget devoted to mission, lead worship
  - Individualism to Intimacy* – continue working together on group projects (WIM breakfast, Crop Walk), be stewards of welcome by introducing yourself to someone you don’t know every Sunday
  - Charity to Changing Structures* – work on creating closer relationships with our resident partners (Food Pantry, WIM), participate in events like Ecumenical Advocacy Days, work on influencing and changing policies (ordination of GLBT, health care, etc)

#### **VI. Guest Presentation – Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry**

Kathy Russell, Executive Director of the Food Pantry, which is a resident partner of ours, gave an informative talk on the history of the Food Pantry, who and how much it serves and some plans for the future. It is in the process of becoming a 501(c)(3), ending its direct connection to the Community of Congregations, but remaining a partner. It currently serves 28 zip codes in our area, with 44% of its food going to residents of Humboldt Park and Austin. The Food Pantry serves a growing number of people and could serve even more if space allowed. Its new mission statement is to “work together as a community to reduce hunger locally through direct hunger relief services, hunger awareness education and advocacy to influence anti-hunger policy.

#### **VII. Raising up Council Leadership for 2010-2011**

In April, Council will elect its leadership for the upcoming year. Last year we implemented a process whereby the person elected Vice Moderator would move in to the Moderator role, assuming everyone is agreeable. As such, Stuart Gillette is willing to assume the Moderator

position if elected and Beth Mrkvicka has agreed, pending the vote, to continue on as Clerk. A request was made that everyone who is eligible remain in the running for office and if elected, prayerfully consider accepting.

### **VIII. Committee Reports and Action Items**

Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee to use surplus funds from the 2009 budget (just under \$10,000) to pay down the outstanding building loan. After discussion the motion was unanimously approved.

Action: A motion was made and seconded to authorize up to \$8000 to be spent on additional alarms, securing door access and a gate to improve security of the building. The motion was unanimously approved.

Action: A motion was made and seconded to authorize a Food Pantry Oversight Board, with representation of Council member Rick Ashton to facilitate active conversation with our resident mission partners. The motion was unanimously approved.

**IX. Vice Moderator's Report:** Stu thanked Council for their participation in hosting a successful community-wide breakfast to broaden the understanding of the Walk-in Ministry. He expressed his willingness to move into the Moderator's position pending the vote of Council next month.

**VIII. Moderator's Report:** Laurie reported that she had contacted our UCC delegates about their denomination's involvement in activities surrounding Colombia and other like-minded issues and will be getting a report. She passed around a card to the Drews family, thanking them for allowing us all to be present and involved in Beth's illness and death.

### **IX. Staff Reports:**

- **Julie** – shared her commitment to becoming more technologically savvy, believing that “God's Vision can go viral.” She is actively recording “vision sightings” to memory.
- **Leah** – reported that 17 FUJIs attended the OWL retreat, Adult Ed is thriving and Youth Sunday is April 25.
- **Marylen**– reported on all the many varied ways the church school classes are involved in events of the church.

**X. What did Council do tonight to live the Vision?** Our reflection on the role of Council, on our election process and our charge to model spiritual maturity were all considered to be ways we can and will live the Vision.

Stu closed us in prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Mrkvicka, Clerk