

Church Council Minutes

Date: Tuesday, April 20, 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 Julie Harley
Staff: Leah Fowler
Marylen Marty-Gentile
Special Ally Vertigan, Intern from
Guests: Elmhurst College, Cristy Harris
from the Walk-in-Ministry

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

I. Sharing of Personal Practice of the Vision: Following up on her commitment to move from words to witness, Beth shared her experience of writing notes to members who no longer attend. She had a response from one of the recipients and met her for coffee and conversation. It was a good feeling to connect and Beth felt God's spirit working through her.

II. Joys, Concerns and Remembrances: Concern was expressed for a sick friend, for the death of a professor's mother, for a son trying to fly home during Europe's airline shut-down. There was joy for a college acceptance, for chamber music at PADS, for a benign biopsy and for Council's participation in the CROP walk.

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

Action: the March 16th Council Meeting minutes and the Membership Report were approved by unanimous vote.

Birth: Hogan Mason Davis Porter, son of Josephine Porter and Renee Davis, brother of Emerson and Lillie

Deaths: Allan Merrill, husband of former member Lois Hall Merrill
Mary Anne Duffy, member for 50 years

Deaths, cont: Linda Ruddy, former member, wife of James, mother of Matthew
Anne Robinson, member for 75 years
Carl Armstrong, uncle of Carl Nauert

Transfer: Sarah Ruthven and Josue Aguilera, by e-mail notice

IV. Guest Presentation – Walk-in-Ministry

The Executive Director of the Walk-in-Ministry (WIM), Cristy Harris, shared a bit of the history and mission of our resident partner. WIM was established in 2005 in an effort to centralize services that were being offered at many local churches. It helps with job referrals, bus transfers, landlord-tenant issues and many other services. Approximately 80% of their funding comes from 20 supporting churches. Cristy sees a close connection between the work of WIM and our new Vision themes. Their hope is to change peoples' lives. She expressed appreciation for the support of First United.

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

Council continued its reflection on how it can align itself with our Vision. We hope to use the vision themes as the lens through which we make decisions and evaluate actions. Laurie shared a vision she has of Council moving from individualism to intimacy by growing our relationships with each other, with the committees on which we serve as liaisons and with the congregation. The results of our reflection will be shared with everyone at the Council and Committee Orientation on May 15. This is still a work in progress so Council members and staff will continue to share their comments via e-mail up through May 1.

VI. Council & Committee Orientation

A draft of the orientation being held on May 15 was circulated. Discussion revolved around the importance of making sure an invitation has been extended to everyone who has been asked to attend. There will be follow-up with the office to see about sending an e-vite to the event.

VII. Raising up Council Leadership for 2010-2011

Ballots were distributed and votes were made for next year's leadership. Laurie and outgoing Council member Dan Pietrini were tabulating the results after the meeting.

VIII. Committee Reports and Action Items

Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee to create an electronic Book of Remembrances. The Book of Remembrances records significant gifts and bequests to the church. It is accessible to all and will be placed on the church website. After discussion the motion was unanimously approved.

A Finance Committee motion to approve the dispersal of approximately \$58,000 that has been dormant in the treasure of the Women of the Church was tabled. It was determined that more information is needed from the Finance Committee.

IX. Vice Moderator's Report: Stu announced that we are fully staffed for Elder on Duty up until Memorial Day Sunday.

VIII. Moderator's Report: Laurie announced that Brian Love and Sam Dammers have agreed to serve a term and that Lara Miller has agreed to continue on for another year as a youth representative. She is awaiting the responses of two others. She reminded us that our May 18 meeting is a transitional one and we'll begin with a meal at 6:30. She will be sending thank you notes to the members of the Vision Task Force. A list of Council liaisons to various committees and groups was distributed with a reminder that now is the time to be thinking about making a switch or continuing on. We'll be making final assignments, including those for new Council members, at the May meeting.

IX. Staff Reports:

- **Leah** – reported that this is a busy time for the youth in our church, with the upcoming Youth Sunday and FUJI Mostaccioli lunch. She is working with the Presbytery and Islamic Council, sharing ideas and building relationships.
- **Marylen**– reported on Quest's opportunities to visit other faith communities and shared a bit of the second grade church school's experience studying our vision themes.
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X. What did Council do tonight to live the Vision? Hearing about the work of the Walk-in-Ministry and continuing to focus on ways Council can work intentionally with the Vision were considered to be ways we are living it. Additionally, using the Vision to help us make decisions, i.e. how we use our money, was lifted up.

Connie closed us in prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Mrkvicka, Clerk

