

Church Council Minutes

Date: Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: Chapel

Members: Stuart Gillette, Moderator
Jane Barker, Vice Mod
Beth Mrkvicka, Clerk
Rick Ashton
Jesse Cornman
Sam Dammers
Janet Guevara
Bob Haisman
Becky Kuntz

Brian Love
Gy Menninga
Lara Miller
Connie Ronnow
Deb Stracco
Lou Valsoano
Tom Wolford

Church Julie Harley

Staff: Leah Fowler

Marylen Marty-Gentile

Special Lynda Schueler from West

Guests: Suburban PADS and Rick Pollock,
Chair of Finance

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

I. Sharing of Personal Practice of the Vision: Stu Gillette shared memories of the day his father died, the summer after his freshman year of college. His death was sudden and it taught Stu the importance of not taking anything for granted and for telling people in his life he loved them.

II. Joys, Concerns and Remembrances: Joys included sons graduating from middle school and high school, a son's engagement, an upcoming father-daughter trip, a new home, restored health and mobility and a father's birthday. Concern was expressed for an ill mother-in-law. Remembrances were shared for the deaths of a college classmate and a close family friend.

III. Omnibus Motion: Approval of Council Minutes, Congregational Meeting Minutes, Quest Breakfast Meeting and Membership Report.

Action: the minutes of the May 18, 2010 Council meeting, the June 6, 2010 Congregational Meeting, the Quest Breakfast Meeting and the Membership Report were unanimously approved.

Baptism: Ricardo Castanada

Nicholas Fascione
Jackson, Henry, Eleanor Hickok-Fletcher, sons and daughter of Robert
Hickok and Brian Fletcher
Yu Lin Shen

Deaths: Betty Miller, mother of Pam Oettel
Steve Kolzun, son of Liz and Bob Howells, brother of David and Beth
Father of Pat Hahn, grandfather of Katherine and Kyle

New

Members: Andrew Bell
Kevin Bunschoten
Ricardo Castaneda
Austin Cone
Jesse Cornman
Nicholas Fascione
Jonathan Gilmer
Joshua Harmon
Thomas Kuntz
Madeleine Rees
Victoria Reese
Richard Wheelock

IV. Big Picture Conversation – the Coming Year – Through the Lens of the Vision

Stuart Gillette shared his hopes for Council for the upcoming year. He passed along several potential Big Picture topics including church growth, interfaith relationships, social justice, communication and reaching out to the “invisible population.” He would like Council members to provide strong connections to the committees on which they serve, continuing to be leaders of our vision themes and instrumental in completing committee institutional memory.

V. Guest Presentation – West Suburban PADS

We continue to meet with and learn more about our resident mission partners and this month the Executive Director of PADS, Lynda Schueler, was our guest. West Suburban PADS wrapped up its 18th season and First United has been involved from the beginning. Currently 40 congregations, 1000 volunteers in 20 communities support PADS. Last November, PADS opened a new day program, which is year-round and focuses on supporting the homeless with counseling, basic needs such as showers, laundry facilities and mail services, rental assistance and employment readiness. PADS focus in the coming year will be on the chronic homeless – how to get them off the streets and offering long-term rental support and affordable housing.

VI. Finance – Monthly Update

A new regular agenda item each month will a report from our Finance Committee so that Council will be informed of our current budget standing, learn of any areas of concern and simply be better informed about the financial situation of the church. Rick Pollock, the new Chair of this committee, shared the financial summary to date and also brought forth a “dashboard” view of our spending and anticipated expenses. The dashboard is meant to provide a clear view of current spending and anticipated expenses. He reported that the building loan pay-off and building maintenance (namely the roof) are two areas his committee is following closely but that overall, we are in good standing.

VII. Vice Moderator’s Report: Jane passed around the Elder on Duty sign-up sheet. She is continuing to compile responses from the Committee Orientation Vision exercise.

IX. Moderator’s Report: Stu is having new badges made for Council members that will include the title “Elder.”

X. Staff Reports:

- **Julie** – expressed appreciation for the work of the PSC and is excited about the impending addition of Rob Leveridge as associate pastor. She updated us on the financial situation of the Chicago Presbytery. It continues to attempt to raise money through the sale of some buildings and investments. Cuts to the Presbytery budget impact us through cutbacks of Presbytery staff, justice initiatives, and placement services. Kris Ronnow and Pauline Coffman will be attending the annual General Assembly in Minneapolis in July. Both are sponsoring overtures that our church is supporting (Colombia and the Middle East). Lifelink is cutting its operations by 50% due to cuts in state funding.
- **Marylen** – reported that she is attending the Illinois UCC Conference in June and will be spending a week at Ghost Ranch in July. She is spending some time this summer cleaning up Church School supplies and rooms. Children’s Ministry is considering hosting meet & greets for church school parents this fall.
- **Leah** – no report. Leah was on Workcamp with FUSH.

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

Learning more about PADS’ efforts to move from charity to changing structures was exciting and encouraging. Gratitude was expressed for the many ways our members care about our church, including paying attention to things like the roof.

Jane Barker closed us in prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Mrkvicka, Clerk