



Council Meeting Minutes

Date: July 18, 2017

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Chapel

- Members:**
- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelly Pollock, Moderator | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barbara Metric, Clerk |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matt Aeschleman | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adam Alonso |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lily Alter | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gene Armstrong |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marcia Ashton | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cathy Cerniglia |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Melinda Haag | <input type="checkbox"/> Steve Pederson (E) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Janet Haisman | <input type="checkbox"/> Cate Reading |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shanti Kulkarni | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Priscilla Sibley |

- Staff:**
- Rev. Steve Pierce
 - Rev. Britt Cox
 - Lydia Mulkey, Director of Christian Education
 - Donna Montgomery, Church Administrator

Guests: Sher Spooner, Amanda Swanson, Jackie Eckholm, Rick Ashton, Mark Jolicoeur, Mary Anderson

Moderator Kelly Pollock called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm with a quorum present.

I. Opening Devotion and Prayer – Kelly Pollock

Kelly's meditation focused on a prayer called "A Chaos of Uncalculating Love" by George MacLeod. She stated Art Spooner had shared this prayer during difficult times last year. She said instead of being the money changers, her hope for us was to let "let child like Faith flood into us".

II. Joys, Concerns, and Remembrances

Concerns included the deaths of two longtime members, Rosemary "Pat" Godfrey and Nancy Hanson. Nancy's memorial service was held at First United. Nancy Masterson is in the hospital. Priscilla Sibley's mother, Eleanor, broke her arm. Joys included Gene Armstrong's joyous camping trip with his granddaughter and a friend, and Janet Haisman's trip to Cuba was both intrepid and wonderful. Marcia celebrated Mark Smylie's leadership as well as celebrating Kelly's good start as Moderator.

III. Omnibus Motion

Action: A motion by the clerk to accept the following meeting minutes, membership report, membership of new member, and Finance committee motion was seconded.

- Council meeting minutes – June 20, 2017 with correction of date of John Cole's last day
- Council Executive Session meeting minutes – June 20, 2017 (personnel issue)
- Council special meeting minutes – June 30, 2017 (IPNC formation)

- Council special meeting minutes – July 9, 2017 (Congregational meeting, dissolving John Cole’s call)
- Membership report June 2017 – Inactive Member by request (Nick Lindley moved to Germany)
- New Member vote: Sarah Lineberry (did not have quorum at New Member class, voted tonight)
- Finance Committee motion for Doug Thurman to reach final agreement with VOP and Waste Management to recover \$12,000 overpayment through future savings: Jackie Eckholm/Finance Committee moves that Council empower Doug Thurman to reach a final agreement with the Village of Oak Park/ Waste Management on essentially the same terms as described in the July 11, 2017 Finance Committee Report. This will result in a savings of approximately \$12,000. The motion was passed unanimously.

IV. Staff Reports

Britt – Summer vesper services have been wonderful. Priscilla complimented staff on the services.

Lydia – Turning attention to Fall and recruiting for church school. Redesign of the 4th grade classroom. August 19th is a storytelling workshop for teachers.

Donna – Air conditioning is out, expected to take 3 weeks to repair. Using Martin Air from Bellwood at a price of \$21,000.

Steve – Shared his focus on the staff as he’s looking to ‘turn the ship around’ and focus on three parts: Spritual, Systemic, and Technical. Staff meetings are spiritually centered, not just task oriented. They are developing behavior covenants on how to act with and to each other. Work on handing that down to the congregation as well.

Questions arose from Steve’s report, and a discussion began regarding a PNC. It was agreed to address this topic during the August Council meeting. Council is requested to bring suggestions for timelines as well as what we want in a PNC and Lead Pastor as well as how to determine PNC members.

V. Financial Update

Donna shared a financial update. Plate receipts are up and are \$1,331 above budget. Pledges received YTD are \$66K short, about 15% under. In addition, we have three major unexpected costs: Boiler at \$30,288, Pete Steinke’s Bridgebuilder at \$8,000, and the Air conditioner at \$21,000. Jackie Eckholm said the Finance committee will work on making more Council-friendly reports.

VI. First United Website Redesign

Sher Spooner presented the new First United website going live the week of 7/24/2017. The idea was to have Members say “this looks like my church”. The focus is: who we are, how do you get here, and when is the service? They can track hits and will use Google analytics. Council applauded.

VII. Phase 2 of the Hutchinson Report

Mark Jolicouer shared the Hutchinson summary of the fees for getting estimates on replacing the roof as well as possible Roof Construction Budgets. It is the opinion of Hutchinson that issues in the masonry are bigger and causing the water damage in the sanctuary, so masonry should also be considered in our estimates. In addition, Hutchinson recommends we ask for 180 days, which will give us time to determine finances. Jackie Eckholm explained that \$99K from the insurance settlement will be used for the bid documents.

Action: Gene Armstrong moved Council supports the preparation of Roof Professional Services bid documents 2a and 2b (Asphalt Shingles and Slate) in the amount of \$12,325. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Action: Gene Armstrong moved we approve the Masonry Professional Services for Field Verification and Bid doc for \$4,950. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

VIII. Capital Strategies Workgroup: Funding Report

Rick Ashton shared general overviews of several scenarios for funding the Roof Replacement, including borrowing money from a local bank, borrowing money from our endowment, a capital campaign, and borrowing money from the Presbytery and UCC affiliates. The following action item was identified: Council asked the Capital Strategies Workgroup to come back with Funding Scenarios for Council's September meeting. The basic assumption moving forward is that we will borrow money for the roof and then look to do a Capital campaign to repay the loans.

IX. Strategic Plan: New Work Plan

Mary Anderson presented the New Work Plan for Implementation of the Strategic Plan. A Transition team, Implementation Planning process, and Project Managers for an Accountability team along with specific dates have been created, and Mary and her teams will report to Council monthly. While Integration and implementation occur, facilitators may be needed to help with the healing the Church needs at this time. Council thanked Mary and her team and support and request the Strategic Planning committee go for it!

X. Interim Pastor Nominating Committee

Adam Alonso shared that the IPNC is moving along. There were 4 phone interviews set up, and 2 new interviewees. Characteristics of ideal Interim were discussed.

XI. Moderator Updates

1. All Council Liaisons to Committees have been finalized. Youth Council members do not serve as liaisons.
2. Food Pantry Contract is finalized
3. 100th Anniversary of the Building is coming up
4. Steve Pierce is with us until early September, the COM from the Presbytery is dissolved.

XII. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Priscilla Sibley moved to adjourn at 9:39 pm. The motion was seconded and approved. Britt Cox led the closing prayer.

Next scheduled Council meeting: August 15, 2017 at 7:00 pm in the Chapel

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Metric, Clerk