



## Council Meeting Minutes

Date: March 20, 2018

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Chapel

- Members:**
- |                                     |                          |                                     |                       |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Kelly Pollock, Moderator | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Barbara Metric, Clerk |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Matt Aeschleman          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Lily Alter            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Gene Armstrong           | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Priscilla Sibley (E)  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Marcia Ashton            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Cathy Cerniglia       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Melinda Haag             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Steve Pederson        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Janet Haisman            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Cate Readling         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Shanti Kulkarni          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Chase Gentile         |
- Staff:**
- |                                     |                   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Rev. Deborah Kapp |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Rev. Britt Cox    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Rev. Lydia Mulkey |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Amanda Swanson    |

**Guest:** Mary Anderson, Jackie Eckholm

**Moderator Kelly Pollock called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm with a quorum present.**

### I. Opening Devotion and Prayer – Melinda Haag

Melinda talked about Lent and giving something up, but suggested instead adding something. She decided to put it to the test during a weekend in NYC. She shared the story of how she was rejuvenated by the simple act of being kind. She led Council in an opening prayer.

### II. Joys, Concerns, and Remembrances

Connie Henderson Damon is in Hospice at home. Gene celebrated his niece for receiving the Columbus Jefferson award which recognizes contributions to charitable work. Kelly celebrated her daughter and Cate's son and their performance in Fiddler on the Roof. Marcia shared her joy with Council agreeing to host the Centennial celebration on April 15. Britt shared the life of Dan Efner will be celebrated on Saturday. Cate shared her excitement that her entire cub scout pack crossed over to the boy scout troop.

### III. Omnibus Motion

Action: A motion by Barbara Metric to accept the following meeting minutes was seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

- Council Meeting minutes - Feb 20, 2018
- Special Council Meeting minutes – March 18, 2018

#### **IV. Strategic Plan Update – Mary Anderson**

Mary shared information regarding the Strategic Plan Accountability team and said the awesome SPA team is off to a great start. Council's request is for her to attend 1 Council meeting per quarter, and to receive an updated spreadsheet at that meeting. Council also requested she write a brief memo to Council if anything needs to be focused on in particular. Marcia shared she has heard from members that there has been silence with regard to Strategic plan, feels increased communication about where we are. Mary had a few requests for Council: be messengers about the Strategic plan and promote it more, as liaisons with committees be sure to ask "does this match our strategic goals" during committee meetings, encourage committees to embrace what SPA team is doing, encourage committees to ask for help if needed.

#### **V. Staff Reports**

**Lydia** – OWL went well. T-shirts for March for Our Lives are \$20 and we will meet for Saturday at Church for the march at 9:45 am.

**Britt** – She's starting to wrap up her responsibilities. She's working with her committees on what they need before and after her departure. She preached at new church. She shared the changes with New Members, that during that class there will be more focus on what gifts they bring and time they are willing to contribute, not just financial gifts. She encouraged Council to attend a new member class. There will be a June new member class.

**Deborah** – Handed out a summary from the February conversations, she is still not sure how to help some members who are still having a hard time with staff departures. She summarized with "continue to minister to those who feel pain but also move forward." She shared results of workshop discussing online options for congregations: it's a new way of communicating, we have lots of learning to do, we use both face to face and virtual interaction and this shapes how we function with each other and as Christians. On April 7 Council will meet to discuss our culture and identity in preparation for a PNC. There was a discussion of members who self-nominated to be on the PNC. Request to have Art Spooner communicate to them that we received nomination, we've had a strong response so not automatically on PNC if self nominated, and we expect PNC will be initiated in late May. Barbara will ask Art to communicate with self nominating members about these points and Kelly will put something in April Messenger Bell.

#### **VI. Finance**

Jackie discussed final 2017 numbers as well as current books. A cover letter and 8 page doc will be sent to each member via eblast regarding 2017 numbers. Maureen wants to caution Council that 2 separate audits will be needed as Nursery school books are separate, and she strongly encourages us to merge books and get fiscal year of Nursery school in synch with Church. Kelly said to go ahead and work to get fiscal year and books merged. Susan Samek hired as financial assistant.

Action: Barbara Metric, Clerk of Council, moved Council officially thank Jackie Eckholm, Doug Sorenson, Maureen Wheeler, and the Finance Committee for all their time, effort, energy and transparency in getting our books and financial statements in order and to be able to share with the congregation. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

## VII. Moderator Update

There have been two requests from the Gebhard fund, and Kelly put together an ad hoc team to decide how to distribute the funds. The team consists of 3 Council members (Gene Armstrong, Barbara Metric, Priscilla Sibley), 1 FIA member (Marteki Reed), Staff Liaison (Deborah Kapp), and an Adult Education member (James Callahan). Next tasks coming up will be to create to additional ad hoc teams to manage tasks from the Strategic plan: updating/organizing our governance/bylaws and Committee review. Barbara read the letter from Mark Burkland with an update of the Montgomery lawsuit: 2 co-defendants (Presbyterian Church and United Church of Christ) were dismissed, filings of initial disclosures will occur soon, and the next status conference is set for March 27.

## VIII. Committee Updates

Action: Gene Armstrong moved Council, following the Finance Committee's recommendation, direct the undesignated planned gift of \$117,617.67 received in 2017-2018 from the Carol Kelm Trust, plus accrued interest, be used to reduce the currently outstanding balance due on the margin loan from Alliance Bernstein secured to fund repairs to the church roof, and that this gift be characterized and treated as a "major lead gift" in respect to any capital campaign the church may undertake to seek gifts sufficient to repay the entire balance of that loan. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

This gift will be announced to the congregation in the near future, but after Easter. Planned giving said to attorney to please let know family we are appreciative.

Gene initially brought another motion to the table regarding having someone on staff who can sign checks who is physically in the building. Idea was to have Manager of Operations added as a signatory. This would be the 5th signatory and only staff member. Council discussed, and decided we did not want to have this. Gene will speak with Finance Committee and let them know he withdrew the motion.

Building and Grounds is holding a Spring Cleanup on April 14.

Action: Janet Haisman moved on behalf of Building and Grounds to shut down the sanctuary for purposes of restoration beginning July 1, 2018 for no more than 2 months, finishing no later than August 31, 2018. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Action: Gene Armstrong moved that the Moderator be directed to form an ad hoc committee whose task would be to evaluate the pastoral staff needs following Britt's resignation. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The Interfaith Green Committee through the Oak Park Park District is encouraging people to ride their bikes to church on Sunday April 22.

The Cub scout troop at First United will be providing Color Guard for Scouts for Equality at the Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> Pride Parade.

## **IX. Adjournment and Closing Prayer**

Cate Readling moved to adjourn at 9:27pm. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Deborah Kapp led the closing prayer.

**Next scheduled Council meeting: April 17, 2018 at 7:00 pm in the Chapel**

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Metric, Clerk