



Special Council Meeting Minutes

Date: July 1, 2019

Place: via e-mail

Members: Gene Armstrong, Moderator Carl Nauert, Clerk
 Paul Raducha Dan Pietrini
 Samantha Duwe Jamie Shamhart
 Sue Saliny Alissa Lonergan
 Melinda Haag Megan Lewis
 Janet Haisman Carol Ingram
 Sallie Smylie Priscilla Sibley
 Chase Gentile

Purpose: The purpose of the e-vote was to endorse the Middle East Task Force's application for Presbytery funding.

The following motion was communicated by Gene Armstrong:

Council hereby authorizes the Faith in Action Committee to prepare and submit an application by and through which First United Church, along with the other churches that comprise the Middle East Task Force, seeks from the Presbytery a \$6,000 grant to be used to defray some of the expenses to be incurred by members of Presbyterian churches who will be selected by the Task Force to attend a Mid-East peace conference: "Mosaic of Peace." Those required to sign the application are hereby authorized to do so.

The motion was seconded by Carl Nauert and the motion passed.

BACKGROUND:

The Middle East Task Force of the Chicago Presbytery ("METF"), created some years ago by the Presbytery, wants to secure a \$6,000 grant from the Presbytery. If approved, the money will go to the METF. The METF will use this money to defray some of the cost for 2-3 people total from Presbyterian churches to attend a peace conference in the Middle East. The METF will select the people to support. The METF is not asking First United to provide any funding for this project. (If someone from First United wants to apply, he/she will be directed to the Gebhard Fund for assistance.) METF expects that those who participate in the trip will return and report on their experience to the presbytery and local churches; further, this will strengthen the witness of METF.

The requirements of the Presbytery are the such applications are to be submitted by the churches that are members of the METF, that the METF itself cannot be the applicant. (See below for the list of churches who are members.) In other words, a local church must be the applicant for this request.

I see no reason why council would not endorse the METF effort to secure funds for this project from the Presbytery. Members of our church have in the past been granted aid from our Gebhard Fund to attend similar peace conferences in the Middle East.

To achieve the METF objective, the applications must be considered at the summer meeting of the Presbytery committee in charge of such grants. The deadline for submitting an application is August 1st. This means the applications must be submitted in July. (The METF cannot wait until the fall meeting of the committee in charge of these grants because the deadline for applications to attend the conference is October 15th.)

Council does not intend to meet in July. Council can, however, act on this matter via an e-vote. I am, therefore, asking the members of Council to vote aye or nay on the following motion.

OTHER PARTICULARS:

1. Member churches of the METF

Christ Presbyterian Church, Hanover Park
First Presbyterian Church, Wilmette
Lake view Presbyterian Church, Chicago
First United Church, Oak Park

2. Conference:

This is a Presbyterian Mission Agency trip to Israel Palestine: "Mosaic of Peace Conference: Witnessing for Peace and Wholeness in a Land Called 'Holy'".
March 14-18, 2020.

3. Participation:

The METF will seek out persons to attend the conference from Presbyterian churches who do not often participate in such mission-oriented events. Each person selected will be expected to pay at least 1/3 of the cost to attend the conference.

Respectfully submitted,
Carl Nauert, Clerk