



Council Meeting Minutes

Date: September 17, 2019

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Chapel

Members: Gene Armstrong, Moderator Carl Nauert, Clerk
 Megan Lewis Carol Ingram (E)
 Sallie Smylie Priscilla Sibley
 Sue Saliny Dan Pietrini
 Melinda Haag Samantha Duwe (E)
 Janet Haisman Paul Raducha
 Jamie Shamhart David Hanson
 Alissa Loneragan

Staff: Rev. John Edgerton Alicia Reese (E)
 Rev. Lydia Mulkey Amanda Swanson

Guests: Jackie Eckholm, Bob Giles, Maureen Wheeler, Caitlin Zinsser

Moderator Gene Armstrong called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm with a quorum present.

I. Opening Devotion and Prayer – Sallie Smylie

Sallie's devotion and prayer were based on a hymn – "Called as Partners in Christ's Service". Sallie led us in song. The lyrics were based on words of Scripture, from the books of John, Galatians and Ephesians.

II. Joys and Concerns

Concerns included a mom diagnosed with dementia, a mother diagnosed with breast cancer, a cousin's son killed in a motorcycle accident, friends moving to Plymouth Place, a member undergoing hip surgery, a member's death, an uncle's death (member of the greatest generation), and sending children off to school.

Joys included the great weather, an adventurous summer, parents sending children off to school, a Bear's win, Gathering Day, "Meet and Greets" with John Edgerton, a daughter's wedding, a daughter's first job, wonderful volunteers, a trip to Australia, and time with family. We are thankful for the ministry of Deborah Kapp and the upcoming ministry of John Edgerton.

III. Nomination of David Hanson to fill unexpired term of Chase Gentile

Gene shared a letter of resignation he received from Chase Gentile, whose term was set to expire in 2020. The Nominating Committee has nominated David Hanson to be appointed as a Council member to complete the unexpired term of Chase Gentile. Gene Armstrong provided information concerning Dave's background and previous Council experience at First United. Pursuant to Article IX of the Constitution, the Council has the authority to fill a vacancy arising between annual Election meetings.

Sue Saliny, Nominating Committee Liaison, moved that council hereby appoints David Hanson a member of Council to fill the unexpired term created by the resignation of Chase Gentile. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

IV. Omnibus Motion

Motion by Carl Nauert to accept the August meeting minutes and the September membership report was seconded and was approved unanimously.

- Council Meeting minutes – August 17, 2019
- Membership Report (September 2019)

V. Council Signups – Carl Nauert

The Devotional signup is filled through March. Sue Saliny volunteered to cover the Elder Desk on 9/29, so the Elder Desk signup is now filled until Christmas. Carl passed around a Communion signup sheet for Worldwide Communion Sunday (10/06). Gene encouraged the Elders to volunteer for other Communion Sundays.

VI. Financial Reports – Jackie Eckholm, Bob Giles & Maureen Wheeler

Jackie and Bob introduced Maureen Wheeler, Financial Consultant, and Maureen reviewed the short form financial report for the period January 1, 2019 thru June 30, 2019. Please see Council packet for the report. Overall, First United is doing very well. Finance intends to share in the October Council meeting the audit results and the fiscal year July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 budget.

Motion to Council: The Finance Committee recommends that Council approve the necessary changes to the Restricted Fund Chart of Accounts in order to bring these Restricted Accounts into compliance with audit recommendations and new IRS rules. This will also facilitate report generation in the ACS software. Finance is requesting that Council approve a transfer of funds from the following restricted funds (see attached chart). The destination for these funds is recorded on the attached chart.

Motion was seconded by Carl Nauert and unanimously approved.

New fiscal year planning has begun. The books for the first six months 2019 are closed. We have now begun the fiscal year: July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020.

VII. Riser Proposal – Gene Armstrong

Gene reported that John and Susan Zaruba have offered to make a gift of \$6000 to First United Church designated for a specific purpose: to help pay for a new riser system for the sanctuary. The total estimated cost of the system is \$12,000. By the terms of our Gift Policy, any gift for a designated purpose must be approved by Council as appropriate and consistent with the needs of the Church. Gene shared preliminary

information concerning funds that may be available to cover the balance. A contract for purchase of the system will not be entered into until (a) actual receipt of the gift from the Zarubas, and (b) Council has approved the funds to cover the balance of the system's cost.

Motion from David Hanson: Council hereby accepts the offer from John and Susan Zaruba to make a gift of \$6000 to First United Church for a designated purpose: to help pay for a new riser system for the sanctuary. **The motion was seconded by Jamie Shamhart and passed unanimously.**

VIII. Executive Session

A motion to enter Executive Session by Carl Nauert at 8:30pm was seconded and unanimously approved. The Executive Session ended at 8:51pm.

IX. Senior High Ministry Update - Alicia Reese

See Alicia's report in the September Council packet.

X. Faith in Action Letter – Firearm Dealers

Faith in Action has provided a letter addressed to the Chief Legal Counsel of the Illinois State Police and has asked the Council to approve it. The letter is in the Council packet.

Carl Nauert moved that Council approve the letter provided by Faith in Action, to be signed by Gene Armstrong (Moderator), John Edgerton (Lead Pastor) and Carl Nauert (Clerk) and then send it to the addressee. Unanimously approved.

XI. Governance Task Force (Policies and Procedures Update) – Sallie Smylie

Sallie reported that her team met the previous night (9/16) and began discussing how to reorganize the current Policies & Procedures V1.3 document. The team consists of Sallie Smylie, Priscilla Sibley, Melinda Haag and Carl Nauert.

XII. Buildings and Grounds Update – Amanda Swanson

Amanda Swanson reported that the asbestos tile project is complete. A third party inspected the new gym roof and reported that all is fine. New chairs for Centennial Hall are on order.

XIII. Staff Reports

Staff reports are in the Council packet. Alicia also included a detailed folder of the new Quest curriculum.

XIV. Moderator Update – Gene Armstrong

A meeting with Committee Chairs to discuss the report of the Task Force on Committees – still pending.

A project to develop Dashboard reporting – still ongoing.

Meet and Greet with John Edgerton – Gene encouraged all the Elders to sign up. John stated he is working with Marcia Ashton to set up additional dates.

Liquor Policy – We will discuss whether to revisit the liquor policy in the October meeting. Gene asked the Clerk, Carl Nauert, to forward a sample liquor policy to the Elders. This will give the Elders some context to discuss whether we should reconsider our current liquor policy.

Picture Directory – Gene wants to start this project, as our last picture directory is from 2006. He and Amanda will follow up with Alicia as to whether the Deacons may be interested in this project.

Nursery School Personnel Policy – Gene will be working to start a work group to merge the Nursery School's personnel policies with the First United Personnel Handbook.

Gene reminded council that we have not yet determined how we might address the suggestion made last May that the congregational covenant include the category "political affiliation." He shared some ideas

XV. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Carl Nauert moved to adjourn at 9:34 pm. The motion was seconded and approved. John Edgerton led the closing prayer as Council gathered at the front of the Chapel.

Next regularly scheduled Council meeting: Tuesday, October 15, 2019, at 7:00 pm in the Chapel.

XIV. Membership Report

MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY AUGUST 2019		
ITEM	DATE, NAME, FAMILY MEMBERS	TOTAL
Births		0
Baptisms		0
Confirmations (also new members)		0
New Members		0
Members removed by request	Julie Allison in email to Deacon Ally Vertigan	1
Members removed by Transfer		0
Members removed by Death	8/8/19 – Ruth Luthringer	1

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Nauert, Clerk