



## Council Meeting Minutes

Date: November 19, 2019

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Chapel

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

**Staff:**  Rev. John Edgerton  Alicia Reese  
 Rev. Lydia Mulkey  Amanda Swanson

**Guests:** Mark Breen

**Moderator Gene Armstrong called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm with a quorum present.**

### I. Opening Devotion and Prayer – Carl Nauert

Carl read Barack Obama's 2010 Presidential Thanksgiving Proclamation. We also sang the hymn "We Gather Together". Carl led us in prayer.

### II. Joys and Concerns

Concerns included a mother in law.

Joys included a fabulous wedding and an Elder recovered from a concussion.

### III. Omnibus Motion – Carl Nauert

Motion by Carl Nauert to accept the October meeting minutes, Special meeting minutes and the November membership report was seconded by Jamie Shamhart and was approved unanimously.

- Council Meeting minutes – October 15, 2019
- Special Meeting Minutes (New Members) – October 27, 2019
- Membership Report (October 2019)

#### **IV. Conflict of Interest Policy Acknowledgement Form – Gene Armstrong**

The Conflict of Interest Policy Acknowledgement form was signed by every Council member. This signifies that every Elder has read and understands our policy. The form was scanned and saved in the SharePoint Policies and Procedures folder.

#### **V. Re-Affirming Our Commitment to Gun Violence Prevention – Gene Armstrong**

The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship is submitting an Overture to General Assembly, ON RE-AFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION, and are requesting approval of our Session (aka Council) and then on to the POC Assembly. Faith in Action approved the overture and requested that Council approve it.

##### **Motion,**

That Council (Elders) of the First United Church of Oak Park:

A. Re-affirms our commitment to gun violence prevention and endorses and supports the Presbytery of Chicago overtures to the 224th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to endorse three (3) specific recommendations as set forth in the document attached as an exhibit to the minutes of this meeting, and

B. Approves the Rationale for these recommendations as stated in said document.

Further, directs the Clerk to forward a copy of this action to the appropriate person at the Presbytery of Chicago.

Motion made by Carl Nauert, Clerk, and seconded by Janet Haisman, Elder.

The motion passed unanimously.

#### **VI. Financial Reports and Audit – Jackie Eckholm and Bob Giles**

The church's financial health is very good through the first quarter of our new fiscal year. Jackie and Bob presented the July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 budget, explaining the process for preparation of the budget and specific line items of note.

Motion to approve the fiscal year July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 budget moved by Carl Nauert, seconded by David Hanson. Approved unanimously

CapinCrouse has requested additional compensation for overages in time and personnel costs for the recently completed 2018 Audit. The Finance Committee recommended we pay an additional \$4000, to be covered by the remaining balance in the Search Committee's budget. Please see the Finance Committee report in the Council packet for more details

**Motion:** The Finance Committee recommends that Council approve a supplemental payment of \$4,000 to CapinCrouse for overage costs due to unforeseen circumstances.

Motion by David Hanson, seconded by Melinda Haag. Approved unanimously.

Bob and Jackie led a discussion on the First United Nursery School FY 2021 budget and the status of integrating the school's financial matters with the Church's. The school needs approval to set tuition for the 2020-2021 school year. This will be handled by Council through an upcoming e-vote.

A working group met on November 7, 2019 to review the Margin Loan debt and explore strategies to minimize the Church's risk in this time of volatility in the markets. The group consists of Rev. John Edgerton, Doug Sorensen, Bob Giles and Jackie Eckholm. There is a meeting scheduled with Clare Golla, our advisor with Bernstein Investments, for November 21, 2019.

**Motion to Council from the Finance Committee:** Motion from Finance Committee which recommends that the Church Council appoint a Capital Campaign Committee enlisting members in the congregation with experience in developing capital campaigns for churches. We would like the Council to charge the Capital Campaign Committee with determining the purpose for the campaign and setting a campaign goal and timeframe for the campaign.

Moved by David Hanson, seconded by Melinda Haag. Unanimously passed.

## **VII. Stewardship Update – Melinda Haag**

As of 11/15/19, the church has received 80 "Tithe Us Over" pledges totaling 181,345.50. Of that amount, \$10,817.00 has been paid to date. Council members volunteered to write thank you notes for these pledges. Discussion followed on next steps, including the need for improvement of the online system and follow-up with members who have not yet pledged. Melinda Haag also reported that she and John Edgerton are co-hosting a dinner for about 10 people who have expressed interest in brainstorming ideas on how we approach stewardship and in finding ways to support stewardship activities.

## **VIII. Taskforce on Committees Update - Megan Lewis**

Megan reported that two committees have submitted their input on the Taskforce on Committees report. The due date for this input is December 31, 2019.

## **IX. Governance Task Force (Policies and Procedures Update) – Sallie Smylie**

Sallie reported progress is being made on the governance chapter of a Policies and Procedures Handbook..

## **X. Staff Reports – See Council packet.**

## **XI. Youth Committee FUJI Schedule – Alicia Reese**

Alicia reported a need for FUJI advisors. She, with assistance from John Edgerton, has engaged in extensive recruitment efforts without success.

Council members offered ideas for addressing the shortage in advisors including a shared advisor role and possible hiring of a seminary student as a Youth Advisor. It was agreed a \$3500 stipend to fund a seminary student would be a reasonable and affordable expense.

## **XII. Moderator Update – Gene Armstrong**

Gene shared the following updates (See full report in November 2019 Council packet):

(1) The Dashboards Group coordinator, Mark Smylie, has asked members of this work group to complete various research and background investigations so the group can “hit the ground running” in January.

(2) Organ Maintenance – The chapel organ needs routine maintenance at an estimated cost of \$1000. The sanctuary organ needs preventive maintenance and repair at an estimated cost of \$80,000. The sanctuary organ could be a candidate for inclusion in a capital campaign.

(3) Liquor Policy – Gene has appointed Elders to research the four open issues that council needs to address in considering whether to include in a policy: (1) local and state licensing laws; (2) appropriate rules and regulations; (3) insurance coverage and costs; and (4) certification of bartenders.

(4) Margin Loan – Gene announced that we will be forming a committee to strategize on ways to pay off the margin loan. Finance Committee will solicit a recommendation from Alliance Bernstein, our endowment portfolio manager.

## **XIII. Committee Updates – See Council packet**

## **XIV. Adjournment and Closing Prayer**

Sallie Smylie moved to adjourn at 9:46 pm. The motion was seconded by Priscilla Sibley and approved unanimously. John Edgerton led the closing prayer as Council gathered at the front of the Chapel.

**XV. Membership Report**

<b>MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY OCTOBER 2019</b>		
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DATE, NAME, FAMILY MEMBERS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Births</b>		0
<b>Baptisms</b>	9/29/19 – Gunnar Allen Magnuson, child of Adie and Ben Magnuson 10/13/19 - Hailey Noelle Jakupovic, daughter of Melanie and Jasmin Jakupovic	2
<b>Confirmations (also new members)</b>		0
<b>New Members</b>	Eleanor Marquez Erin Cottingham Steven Cottingham Don Lennie Joan Lennie Darold McCalla Judith McCalla Maureen Basney Nancy Ball  ***Reinstated Sarah Severson who was mis-classified in database	10
<b>Members removed by request</b>		0
<b>Members removed by Transfer</b>		0
<b>Members removed by Death</b>		0

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Nauert, Clerk