



Council Meeting Minutes

Date: January 21, 2020

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Chapel

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

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

Guests: Bob Giles, Jackie Eckholm

Moderator Gene Armstrong called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm with a quorum present.

I. Opening Devotion and Prayer – Alissa Lonergan

Alissa shared an excerpt from “Why Bad Things Happen to Good People” and reflected on her personal relationship with God. Alissa led us in prayer.

II. Joys and Concerns

Joys included an adult baptism. Concerns included a neighbor being hit by a car and an uncle who recently passed.

III. Agenda Approval

Jamie Shamhart moved that we approve the draft agenda, seconded by Sue Saliny. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Omnibus Motion – Carl Nauert

Motion by Carl Nauert to accept the January Council meeting minutes and the January membership report was seconded by Janet Haisman and was approved unanimously.

- Council Meeting minutes – December 17, 2019
- January Membership Report

V. Vice Moderator Nomination

Jamie Shamhart moved that we elect Sallie Smylie as Vice Moderator., to begin immediately. Priscilla Sibley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. Financial Status – Jackie Eckholm and Bob Giles

The church's financial health is very good. Jackie noted that they continue to fine tune the standard monthly short form budget report for all budget types. Jackie overviewed the "Tithe us Over" status and referred us to that section of their report.

The Financial Consultant expense is over budget. See the Financial Committee reports for additional detail.

There will be a multi-committee and staff meeting to develop human resource services requirements in a few weeks after the January Council meeting.

VII. Stewardship Update – John Edgerton

Pastor John Edgerton reviewed the following:

- Congregational luncheon scheduled for January 26th
- Stewardship 2020 Plans
- See John's staff report for more details

VIII. Syria Overture – Gene Armstrong

The Faith in Action committee requested that we endorse the Syrian overture that can be found in the January 2020 Council packet. The overture is being endorsed in numerous Presbyteries nationally with the intent that it will be presented at the national General Assembly.

Carl Nauert moved that we endorse the Syrian Overture and we also have the Clerk send a letter stating our endorsement of the overture to the Stated Clerk of the Chicago Presbytery. The motion was seconded by Sallie Smylie. The motion passed with nine aye votes and one nay vote.

IX. Task Force on Governance– Sallie Smylie

Sallie Smylie reported that the Governance work group is nearing completion of a draft Governance Handbook. Sallie explained that the current Policies and Procedures manual was recently updated to include all policies approved by the Council in 2018 and 2019. The Governance work group will propose that this manual be replaced in part by the new Governance Handbook under development.

X. FUNS Director Job Description – Gene Armstrong

Please see Council packet for the first draft of new FUNS Director job description. The Council decided to defer approval of the job description and referred the matter to the Council Leadership team.

XI. Task Force on Committees – Megan Lewis, Jamie Shamhart

Megan and Jamie reviewed the task force’s meeting with Committee Chairs on January 12th.

Sallie Smylie moved that Council accept with thanks the report and recommendations of the Task Force on Committees, that Council take the recommendations under advisement to deliberate on such further action as it sees fit, and that Council dissolve the Task Force on Committees. The motion was seconded by Janet Haisman and was passed unanimously.

XII. Staff Reports

Staff reports are in the Council packet.

XIII. Moderator Report – Gene Armstrong

1. Sandy White restricted gift

Motion by Carl Nauert: Council, being informed that Sandy White has made a current gift to the church and has indicated that this gift is for a dedicated purpose, to wit: to reduce the church’s obligations under the margin loan due to Bernstein, does hereby approve the restriction she attaches to this gift and agrees to accept with gratitude her gift subject to the restriction as to use that she asks Council to approve.

Furthermore, Council acknowledges that Sandy White intends for this gift to be considered and treated as a contribution by her to the anticipated capital campaign the church will launch in the near future and agrees that her gift will be treated as a contribution to that capital campaign.

The motion was seconded by Janet Haisman and passed unanimously.

Late last year (2019), the church received two current gifts designated for a specific purpose, to wit: To reduce the church’s obligations under its margin loan at Alliance Bernstein. Council agreed to these restrictions as to the use of these gifts. These moneys have been deposited to a restricted account. Council needs to authorize the financial manager to send the combined total of these gifts to Alliance Bernstein with a direction that they be applied to reduce the amount due on the church’s margin loan.

Carl Nauert moved that Council hereby directs the Financial Manager to send to Alliance Bernstein the combined total of the designated gifts received from John and Susan Zaruba (\$100,000) and from Sandra White (\$50,000) with a letter of direction that these funds be applied to reduce the amounts due on the church’s margin loan.

This motion was seconded by Sallie Smylie and passed unanimously.

2. Capital Campaign Planning Task Force

Gene Armstrong asked the Council to concur in his appointment of the following persons to comprise a Capital Campaign Planning Task Force:

Rick Ashton	Cathy Cerniglia	John Chapman-Rienstra
Melinda Haag	Dave Hanson	Mark Jolicoeur
Susan Pierson	Sara Stevenson	Ben Von Fischer
Sandra White	John Zaruba	

Gene also asked Council to approve the following charge to this task force:

The Capital Campaign Planning Task Force is asked to assist Council in the following ways:

- Propose goals and purposes for the up-coming capital campaign. In this respect, it should answer the question: If we had the money, how could we spend it to make First United Church a better church?
- Propose priorities as to spending funds raised
- Make recommendations as to
 - Whether to conduct a feasibility study
 - Whether to retain a consulting firm
 - Whether to rely on denominational assistance
 - What should be the financial goal of the campaign
 - What should be the timeframe for the campaign

The task force should feel free to ask Council to expand the scope of this charge to include other matters that it feels should be taken into consideration as our church formulates plans to conduct a capital campaign. The committee is encouraged to be imaginative and visionary.

The task force should begin this work as soon as possible and submit its report to Council by March 31, 2020.

Carl Nauert moved that Council concurs in the Moderator's appointment of the above-named persons to serve as a Capital Campaign Planning Task Force and that Council approve the charge as stated, above.

The motion was seconded by Jamie Shamhart and passed unanimously.

3. Congregational Covenant

The Council reviewed three versions of the congregational covenant which can be found in the January 2020 council packet. The motions below document the Council's decision.

Dave Hanson moved that Council, having compared (1) the congregational covenant in the church Constitution with (2) the covenant proposed by the Deacons and (3) the covenant that includes suggested revisions to that proposed covenant, all as reflected in the chart attached to this motion,

Recommends that the congregational covenant in the Constitution be revised to state as follows:

Members of the church covenant together to:

- Follow and model the ways of Jesus the Christ;
- Search for an honest understanding and expression of Christian faith through worship and education;
- Nurture and care for and support each other, celebrating joys, extending support in times of grief and struggle, and working in good faith to restore relationships in times of conflict;
- Engage and share in the life of the church, contributing our talents and resources to its missions and ministries and seeking connection through church events;
- Advocate for the poor, marginalized and oppressed, seeking peace and understanding in the world;
- Include people of all racial, ethnic, cultural identities, gender identities, sexual orientations, and abilities in all aspects of our congregational life.

Further, Council directs the Clerk to take all steps necessary to bring this recommendation to the next meeting of the church membership so the members may vote on the question of whether to so amend the constitution.

The motion was seconded by Jamie Shamhart and passed unanimously.

Subsequently, this motion above was amended.

Sallie Smylie moved that we amend “**Further**, Council directs the Clerk to take all steps necessary to bring this recommendation to the next meeting of the church membership so the members may vote on the question of whether to so amend the constitution” to “**Further**, Council directs the Clerk to take all steps necessary to bring this recommendation to a meeting of the church membership on a date set by Council so the members may vote on the question of whether to so amend the Constitution”.

The motion was seconded by Jamie Shamhart and passed unanimously.

4. Reconciliation of Nursery School and Church Personnel Policies

Gene Armstrong asked the Council to concur in his appointment of the following persons to comprise a Task Force to review and compare the personnel policies of the nursery school and the church to reconcile any provisions which might be contradictory, confusing or inconsistent:

Tom Wolford, Former Chair, Personnel Committee
Fran Knechel, Co-Chair, Nursery School Board
Ken Wiley, First United Member-at-Large.

Gene also asked Council to approve the following charge to this Task Force:

The Task Force is asked to assist Council in the following ways:

The Task Force Group is asked to review and compare the personnel policies of the nursery school and the personnel policies of the church. It is asked to identify what edits, amendments, additions or subtractions should be made in order to reconcile any provisions which might be contradictory, confusing or inconsistent. The Task Force is asked to submit its report to Council before a new Director of the Nursery School is hired, which is expected to occur around June 1, 2020.

Carl Nauert moved that Council concur in the Moderator's appointment of the above-named persons to serve as a Task Force to review and compare the personnel policies of the Nursery School and the personnel policies of the church to reconcile any provisions which might be contradictory, confusing or inconsistent and moved that Council approve the charge to this Task Force as stated, above.

The motion was seconded by Sue Saliny and passed unanimously.

5. Dashboard Reports

Gene reminded Council members that they have been provided multiple opportunities to provide ideas on the information they would like to see presented in dashboard reporting. Gene made a final call for submission of ideas.

6. UCC Delegates and PCUSA Commissioners

See Council packet for an information sheet comparing UCC Delegates to PCUSA Commissioners.

XIV. Committee Updates – See Council packet

Jamie Shamhart gave us a short update on the FUSH Circle Task Force.

XV. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Carl Nauert moved to adjourn at 10:00 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.

XVI. Membership Report

MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY JANUARY 2020		
ITEM	DATE, NAME, FAMILY MEMBERS	TOTAL
Births		0
Baptisms		0
Confirmations (also new members)		0
New Members		0
Members removed by request	1/3/19 – Barb Shaw (moved out of Oak Park)	1
Members removed by Transfer		0
Members removed by Death		0

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Nauert, Clerk