



Council Meeting Minutes

Date: March 17, 2020

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Zoom Meeting

Members: Gene Armstrong, 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

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

Guests: Amy Cardin, Bob Giles, Jackie Eckholm and Doug Sorensen

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

I. Opening Devotion and Prayer – Megan Lewis

Megan's devotional referenced Matthew 5 verses 14 through 16. She commented on Life Today and ended with St. Patrick's prayer.

II. Joys, Concerns and Remembrances

We prayed for parents with health, youth affected by the coronavirus and people are short on money or losing jobs. The ministers are reaching out to seniors in the congregation needing assistance. We are joyously awaiting twins and a mother in law's birthday.

III. Agenda Approval

Carl Nauert moved that we approve the draft agenda, seconded by Melinda Haag. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. FUNS Update – John Edgerton

Gene Armstrong introduced Amy Cardin, nominee for Director of the First United Nursery School. Amy reviewed her background, certifications and work history. Amy responded to questions from the Council. Please see the Council packet for more information, including the recommendation of the Search Committee that Amy Cardin be hired as the next Director.

Carl Nauert moved that Council accept the recommendation of the Search Committee that Amy Cardin be hired as the Director of the First United Nursery School under the terms set forth in the Offer Letter attached hereto, and

That the Lead Pastor and the Church Moderator be and hereby are authorized and directed to execute that Offer Letter on behalf of First United Church. The motion was seconded by Janet Haisman and passed unanimously.

V. Omnibus Motion – Carl Nauert

Janet Haisman moved that we approve the following:

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The motion was seconded by Sallie Smylie and passed unanimously.

VI. Financial Reports – Jackie Eckholm, Bob Giles and Doug Sorensen

Jackie referred us to the reports in the Council packet. Doug reported on our margin loan and indicated that we are in difficult times and need to pay close attention to the markets. Alliance Bernstein's investment strategies have our funds doing better than the market.

Sallie Smylie asked what our options are if there is a margin call. Doug stated we could elect not to draw on the endowment, pay down the loan, and/or add more investments to the account.

Jamie Shamhart asked how we will make up the expected shortfall on plate income. Gene responded that initially we will need to focus on messaging. John Edgerton added that we have received \$6000 on average each Sunday from pledge and non-pledge payments. He and Maureen Wheeler will be picking up the mail weekly.

Melinda Haag suggested that we trial text giving. Jackie stated that she will have Amanda Swanson, Maureen and herself meet to create a plan.

VII. Stewardship Campaign Update – John Edgerton

John Edgerton reported that there are two platform systems by which members have given automatically. The Vanco portal was the first system and the ACS (MemberLink) portal is its replacement. Recently we have focused on calling the families with expired Vanco pledges and asked them to pledge again.

VIII. COVID-19 Strategy – John Edgerton

John reported that everything changes every day. We will have an online worship service for the foreseeable future. This past Sunday was our first online service. There will be lessons learned and we will adapt as we go. The staff is preparing for “shelter in place”. We had 157 online connections for the March 15th online worship service. Housing Forward’s PADS Shelter will only be at the Oak Park Temple going forward. Beyond Hunger continues to operate in and from the Church building.

The ministers are beginning to work on a community care plan. The church YouTube channel will have new content every few days (e.g., story time, Lenten Prayer stations).

IX. Ministry Outline – Sallie Smylie

Sallie reminded us that our constitution calls for an annual Ministry Outline. We should present our ministry plan for approval in the June 28th annual meeting. Please see the Council packet for committee input to the ministry plan. Sallie also has met with the ministers to gather input.

Sallie indicated there are two draft Ministry Outlines in the packet. Some feedback was provided to the drafts. Sallie requested that Council provide further feedback. She will merge the drafts incorporating Council feedback. The Task Force on Committee’s recommendations will be considered as Council decides how best to organize working groups to implement the Ministry Outline.

Gene encouraged the Council to provide input to Sallie by April 14th.

X. Staff Reports

Alicia reported that the junior high trip is canceled. She will be holding virtual coffee hours; keep an eye out for announcements. Alicia is also considering other online fellowship ideas.

John asked that Council Liaisons help ensure that we are connecting as a community. Please emphasize joys and concerns in your committee meetings. Ask yourself what you are doing to take care of yourself.

Lydia’s week was dominated by preparations for the Sunday service (she was the Zoom host also). She is in the process of filming Lenten Prayer Stations and Children’s Story Time.

Amanda reported kudos for Dennis Cobb. We are lucky to have him on our staff. Dennis is learning about virtual meetings. Amanda will be researching Zoom for committee meetings. She also is researching human resources and payroll companies with Maureen Wheeler.

XI. Moderator Report – Gene Armstrong

Please see Council packet for reports on the Capital Campaign Planning Task Force, Reconciliation of Nursery School and Church Personnel Policies, Gun Violence Support and the Governance Handbook group.

XII. Committee Updates – See Council packet

Priscilla Sibley stated that the south patio handicap access ramp needs handrails. It should be ADA compliant. Janet Haisman and Amanda Swanson agreed. Both will raise this issue in the next Building and Grounds committee meeting.

XIII. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Sallie Smylie moved to adjourn at 9:01 pm. The motion was seconded by Carl Nauert and approved unanimously. John Edgerton led us in closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Nauert, Clerk