



Council Meeting Minutes

Date: June 16, 2020

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Zoom Meeting

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

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

Guests: Joan White, Amy Cardin, Fran Knechel, Jackie Eckholm, Lois Thiessen Love, John Lurain, Marteki Reed, and Bob Giles

Gene Armstrong, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm with a quorum present.

I. Opening Devotion and Prayer – Sue Saliny

Sue Saliny's devotional was titled "Chaos, Confusion, Blessing and Prayer". She finished by leading us in prayer.

II. Joys, Concerns and Remembrances

We shared the joys of a son with a new job, a local youth organized protest, two new grandbabies, the Supreme Court LGBTQ+ decision, and a ten-year wedding anniversary. We prayed for Elders undergoing knee surgery and managing a diagnosis of multiple sclerosis, an employee recovering from pneumonia, the passing of a longtime friend, and a stepfather who had recently passed. We prayed for all at this time of the coronavirus and the anxiety of possible upcoming waves.

III. Agenda Approval

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

IV. Omnibus Motion – Carl Nauert

Carl Nauert reminded us that the Annual Meeting will be on June 28th following the worship service.

Carl Nauert moved that we approve the following:

Council Meeting minutes May 19, 2020

Special Council Meeting minutes – June 7, 2020

June Membership Report

Approval of Michelle and Daniella Chapman Rienstra as CMA Representatives

The motion was seconded by Sallie Smylie and passed unanimously.

V. THANK YOU to Outgoing Elders

We thanked all the outgoing Elders for their service to First United: Gene Armstrong, Melinda Haag, Janet Haisman, Priscilla Sibley, Samantha Duwe (youth), and Paul Raducha (youth). Each Elder was given the opportunity to reflect on their experience serving on Council. We presented outgoing moderator, Gene Armstrong, with gifts as a token of our appreciation.

VI. Public Health Task Force – Amy Cardin, John Edgerton

John reported that the task force, chaired by Amy Cardin, has met twice. The task force has researched public health sites and will likely recommend a staged approach, first with the opening of the Sprout Camp and then opening of the building to church staff. Resumption of worship in the sanctuary likely will not occur until September at the earliest, as the Chicago Presbytery is suggesting that in person worship services be delayed until at least August 30th.

Amy Cardin shared that the FUNS has contacted the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) for approval to offer our Young Sprout Camp, with changes to meet the DCFS COVID-19 rules. Among other restrictions, class size will be limited to eight children. The Public Health Task Force is reviewing the public health precautions planned for the Sprout Camp.

VII. Financial Reports – Jackie Eckholm and Bob Giles

Jackie reviewed the draft FY2021 budget short form (see Council packet). Currently, the draft budget shows a \$148K shortfall (FUNS is \$23K and the rest of church operations is \$125K). Household pledges at this point are down. We have 48 households that have not pledged for FY2021 but have pledged in the last two years. There is a plan to contact them. Jackie reviewed ideas to reduce the expenses. An expected increase of cleaning supplies and labor has not yet been included. Amanda stated that the staff is working on estimating those costs.

Gene led us in a next steps discussion. We decided to create two groups: 1) A group to review projected revenue and expenses in the draft budget, composed of Bob Giles, Jackie Eckholm, Dave Hanson, Amy Cardin, Joan White (until her retirement), and Sallie Smylie (chair). 2) A group to develop a stewardship

message to the congregation, composed of Markteki Reed, Jamie Shamhart, and a representative of the Communications Team.

Jackie communicated that the Treasurer is recommending that we get a capital campaign moving soon. We have two years left before the amount due on the margin loan will equal the amount of the general endowment.

We reviewed the organ issues report submitted by organist Michael Surratt with recommended refurbishment actions. After discussing the recommendations, we passed the two following motions:

Carl Nauert made the following motion: I move that Council authorize the Lead Pastor or Moderator of Council to enter into a contract with Ericksen, Christian & Associates as proposed June 16, 2020 for the renovation of the Casavant Organ as outlined in the letter of June 7, 2020. Dave Hanson seconded the motion and the motion passed with eleven ayes and one abstention.

Carl Nauert made the following motion: I move that Council authorize the withdrawal of up to \$15,000 from the Flowers Music Fund, unless reasonable alternative financing is available, to use for the down payment on the contract with Ericksen, Christian & Associates. Dave Hanson seconded the motion and the motion passed with eleven ayes and one abstention.

VIII. Carrie Priebe – Joan White Nursery School Fund -- Gene Armstrong and Fran Knechel

Gene reviewed the motion to rename the Priebe Nursery School Fund to “The Joan White and Carrie Priebe Nursery School Fund” and to restate the purpose to include a specific purpose to provide tuition assistance to families in need:

That Council approves this proposal of the First United Church Nursery School Board and hereby directs:

1. That the name of the Priebe Nursery School Fund be changed to be The Joan White and Carrie Priebe Nursery School Fund, and
2. That the purpose of this Fund be restated as follows: To provide tuition assistance to families who are in need of funds in order to be able to afford to send children to First United Nursery School, and to otherwise support the First United Nursery School.

The copy of the Fund description, as hereby amended, attached hereto is to be substituted for the Fund description current at part of the *Compendium of Church Funds*. Appropriate notations to reflect this history are to be added thereto.

Discussion ensued whether, given the original formation of the Fund in honor of Carrie Priebe, the Fund should retain her name as the first listed. Dave Hanson and Joan White provided background information on Carrie Priebe and the establishment of the Fund. After discussion, Council passed the following amended motion.

Dave Hanson moved to amend the motion to state that the fund be named “The Carrie Priebe and Joan White Nursery School Fund,” with the purpose as stated in the original motion. The motion was seconded by Melinda Haag and passed unanimously.

IX. Alcohol Policy – Gene Armstrong

Gene reviewed the draft alcohol policy that can be found in the June Council packet. The policy was approved in the May Council meeting with certain contingencies. Gene reported that those contingencies were met.

Dave Hanson moved that we approve the draft alcohol policy and its associated permission form and guidelines. The motion was seconded by Sue Saliny and passed with eleven ayes and one abstention.

X. Staff Reports

All staff reports can be found in the June Council packet.

XI. Lighthouse Foundation – Gene Armstrong and Lois Thiessen Love

Lois presented information on the Lighthouse Foundation and reviewed the Faith in Action Team’s initiative to enter into a membership agreement with the Lighthouse Foundation. Please see the June Council packet for more information about the Lighthouse Foundation. Council approved making a \$2500 donation to the Foundation but requested additional research and information be provided before deciding whether the Church should assume the obligations of a membership agreement with the Foundation. The Leadership Team will work with Lois on questions for the Faith in Action Team to address in preparation for the July Council meeting.

XII. Ministry Outline Narrative – Sallie Smylie

Sallie presented the Ministry Outline Narrative, which can be found in the Council packet. Sallie asked the Council to review the Narrative and provide her with any suggestions. The Narrative along with the organization chart will be provided to the congregation in advance of the congregational meeting on June 28 when the congregation will be asked to vote to approve the Ministry Outline.

XIII. Moderator Report – Gene Armstrong

Please see the Moderator’s report in the June Council packet.

XIV. Team Updates

Please see the June Council packet.

XV. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Priscilla Sibley moved to adjourn at 10:39 pm. The motion was seconded by Janet Haisman and approved unanimously. John Edgerton led us in closing prayer.

MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY JUNE 2020		
ITEM	DATE, NAME, FAMILY MEMBERS	TOTAL
Births	5/8/20 – Adam Isaiah Jakupovic, son of Melanie and Jasmin Jakupovic	1
Baptisms		0
Confirmations (also new members)	6/7/20 - Sebastian Alonso, Maddie Carter, Sam Chapman-Rienstra, Joe Guevara, Ava Issel, Gwendolyn Keyes, Lucas Kult-Banout, Henry Metric, Paloma Pareja, Lillie Porter, Caroline Raducha, Mitch Readling, and Thomas Readling	13
New Members	2/23/20 – Betsy Edgerton, Brenda Matson, and Bruce Matson	3
Members removed by request		0
Members removed by Transfer		0
Members removed by Death		0

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Nauert, Clerk