



Council Meeting Minutes

Date: July 21, 2020

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Zoom Meeting

Members: Gene Armstrong, Moderator
 Sallie Smylie, Vice-Moderator Carl Nauert, Clerk
 Megan Lewis Alissa Lonergan
 Marteki Reed Susan Pierson
 Sue Saliny - E Dan Pietrini
 John Lurain Tim Dull
 Jamie Shamhart - E Dave Hanson
 John Borrero Lucas Banout-Kult

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

Guests: Bob Giles, Lois Love, Sandy Jefferson, and Shirley Kyle

Gene Armstrong, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with a quorum present.

I. Opening Devotion and Prayer – Marteki Reed

Marteki Reed related her feelings during recent church services and her strong desire to know what the Lord would have her do. She expressed hope that she will discern God's plan as she serves on Church Council. She finished by leading us in prayer.

II. Joys, Concerns and Remembrances

We shared the joys of someone 90% recovered from Covid 19. Gene Armstrong, outgoing Moderator, shared his joys while serving on Council. We prayed for a friend's father who recently passed away, a friend diagnosed with Covid 19, teachers who will be coping with the dangers of Covid 19, parents who are faced with difficult decisions during this time of Covid 19, and the Peter Steinke family.

III. Shirley Kyle Introduction

John Edgerton introduced Shirley Kyle, our new Finance Administrator. Shirley relayed her personal background and financial and bookkeeping experience with numerous churches. We welcomed Shirley and all look forward to working with her.

IV. Agenda Approval

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

V. Donation Motions

Gene Armstrong introduced the following donations and motions:

Carl Nauert moved that the Council agree to accept from Theodore and Joanne Desportes a gift of \$10,000 which the donors ask be used at the discretion of Church Council either a) to reduce the amount(s) due under the Church's margin loan from Alliance Bernstein or b) to support of any capital project (such as the renovation of the Casavant organ) undertaken at the direction of Church Council. Further, Council agrees to use this gift for a purpose designated by the donors. Council directs that this gift be acknowledged in the manner prescribed by the Gift Policy. Dave Hanson seconded the motions and it passed unanimously.

Carl Nauert moved that the Council agree to accept from Rick and Kelly Pollock a gift of \$10,000 which the donors ask be used at the discretion of Church Council to support any capital project (such as the renovation of the Casavant organ) or capital campaign undertaken at the direction of Church Council. Further, Council agrees a) to use this gift for a purpose designated by the donors and b) to count this gift as the donors' contribution to the up-coming capital campaign. Council directs that this gift be acknowledged in the manner prescribed by the Gift Policy. Dave Hanson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Carl Nauert moved that the Council agree to accept from Michael Surratt a gift of \$5,000 which he asks to be used to pay amounts due in respect to the repair and renovation of the Casavant organ. Further, Council agrees to use this gift for the purpose designated by the donor. Council directs that this gift be acknowledged in the manner prescribed by the Gift Policy. Dave Hanson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VI. Officer Elections – Gene Armstrong

Gene Armstrong led us in voting for our new officers for the upcoming fiscal year.

Carl Nauert nominated Sallie Smylie to be our new Moderator. The motion was seconded by Dave Hanson and it passed unanimously.

Marteki Reed nominated Carl Nauert to continue being our Clerk for another year. The motion was seconded by Dave Hanson and it passed unanimously.

Sallie Smylie thanked Gene Armstrong for his service as Moderator over the past two years, noting the various initiatives and projects completed during his tenure and his steady leadership during transitions and uncertain times. The Council expressed its deep appreciation for Gene’s service and leadership.

VII. Omnibus Motion – Carl Nauert

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

Carl Nauert moved that we approve the following:

Council Meeting minutes June 16, 2020
Special Council Meeting minutes – July 7, 2020
Congregational Meeting minutes – June 28, 2020
Council eVote to elect John Borrero as Council Elder – June 14, 2020

The motion was seconded by Sallie Smylie and it passed unanimously.

VIII. Lighthouse Foundation

Sallie began the discussion by overviewing the Lighthouse Foundation information requested in the June Council meeting. Please see the July Council packet for more information about the Lighthouse Foundation. Lois Love, Faith in Action Chair, and John Edgerton shared their personal impressions of Rev. Frazier, Leader of the Lighthouse Foundation, based on multiple meetings. Sandy Jefferson reaffirmed his interest in serving as the Church’s representative to the Lighthouse Foundation.

Carl Nauert moved that the Council approve First United entering into a membership agreement with the Lighthouse Foundation, for an annual membership donation of \$2,500, with the agreement to be reviewed in a year’s time for possible renewal. The motion was seconded by Marteki Reed and it passed unanimously.

IX. Financial Reports – Bob Giles

Bob Giles, Finance Team Chair overviewed the release of funds report in the July Council packet. More details can be found in the packet. We then voted on the following motion.

Dave Hanson moved that the Church Council approve the release of the funds in the following restricted accounts so that the amounts can be transferred to the appropriate accounts, projects, charities or agencies: Church School Sunday Offerings - \$2298.91, Nursery School Donations - \$50, Housing Forward - \$219, Beyond Hunger - \$3,750.39, One Great Hour of Sharing - \$500, PADS - \$20, Housing Justice - \$490, Cluster Tutoring - \$859, and New Moms - \$25. The motion was seconded by Marteki Reed and it passed unanimously.

Bob reviewed the FY 2021 short form that was the work product of the ad hoc group tasked with fine tuning the first draft of the FY 2021 budget. The FY2021 budget reductions chart summarizes some of the reductions and potential additional cost reductions. Sallie Smylie shared that the budget reflects numerous reductions, many of which had been volunteered by the teams in their respective budget requests. She also noted the opportunity to obtain additional pledges. The Finance Team will continue to monitor this budget closely and may come back with proposed alterations throughout the fiscal year.

Dave Hanson moved that we approve the budget presented by the Finance Team. The motion was seconded by John Lurain and it passed unanimously.

The budget will be presented to the congregation for approval on a date to be determined.

X. Public Health Task Force Report

Amy Cardin, Chair of the Public Health Task Force, reviewed the Public Health Task Force (PHTF) Report on a Protocol for Building Entry. The report included the protocols and the Church Entry Questionnaire. The report can be found in the July Council packet

Carl Nauert moved that the Council approve and adopt the building entry protocols as defined in the July Council packet and directs staff to implement them promptly. The motion was seconded by Dave Hanson and it passed unanimously.

XI. Administration Search Team

John announced that Dennis Cobb has resigned effective August 31, 2020, to accept a full-time position with the Chicago Presbytery. John asked for permission to form a search team to replace Dennis.

Carl Nauert moved that Rev. Edgerton be authorized to form a team to finalize a position description and conduct a search for a replacement for Dennis Cobb at a starting annual salary not to exceed \$25,000. Hiring of the replacement and terms of employment are subject to Council approval. Dave Hanson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XII. Fellowship Team Creation

Sallie shared the background and events that have led to the proposal to create a Fellowship Team. The Fellowship Team description can be found in the July Council packet.

Council Leadership moved that Council create the Fellowship Team and approve the attached description for the Team. The motion was seconded by Carl Nauert and it passed unanimously.

XIII. Personnel Team Description Change

Sallie overviewed the updated Personnel Team Description and the accompanying memo to Council. Both can be found in the July Council packet.

Council Leadership moves that Council approve the revised description of the Personnel Team submitted with this memorandum. The motion was seconded by Dave Hanson and it passed unanimously.

XIV. Staff Reports

Please see the July Council packet for staff reports. John Edgerton shared that Rev. Quinn Caldwell will be our guest preacher delivering the sermon on August 9th.

XV. Moderator Report – Sallie Smylie

Sallie communicated that the Personnel Policies Reconciliation Task Force is continuing to work on the merging of First United and First United Nursery School personnel policies. The Worship, Music and Arts Team is investigating strategies for continuing with a remote worship option after the sanctuary reopens for worship.

XVI. Team Updates

Team updates may be found in the July Council packet.

XVII. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Dave Hanson moved to adjourn at 8:45 pm. The motion was seconded by Megan Lewis and approved unanimously. John Edgerton led us in closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Nauert, Clerk