



Council Meeting Minutes

Date: October 20, 2020

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Zoom Meeting

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

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

Guests: Bob Giles, Charlie Morris, Pete Todd, Nina Roher, Marilyn Giles, and Lois Love

Sallie Smylie, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm with a quorum present.

I. Opening Devotion and Prayer – Alissa Lonergan

Alissa reflected on this unique year of 2020, a challenging year where we have to adapt and develop coping strategies. She shared one way she is coping, which is to engage in an activity that brings her joy. Alissa closed by reading a poem by Mary Oliver, “Wild Geese”.

II. Joys, Concerns and Remembrances

Council members reflected on their joys and concerns in a period of silence.

III. Agenda Approval

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

IV. Omnibus Motion – Carl Nauert

Carl Nauert moved that Council approve the following:

Council Meeting minutes - September 15, 2020
Executive Team Action – September 18, 2020
Special Council eVote minutes – September 30, 2020
Congregational Meeting minutes – October 4, 2020
September Membership Report

The motion was seconded by Dave Hanson and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Financial Reports – Bob Giles

Bob reviewed the financial results as reported in the schedules provided in the October Council packet and then provided background information concerning the following motion, made by Dave Hanson:

Council approves and adopts the “Corporate Resolution” in the form provided and required by Bernstein for use in connection with the type of investment account the Church maintains at Bernstein. A copy of said Corporate Resolution is attached to and is hereby made a part of this motion. Council designates as signatory in respect to the Church Investment Account at Bernstein each of the following: Church Moderator, Church Treasurer, and Chair of the Church Finance Team. Further, Council authorizes and directs each of the individuals who currently serve in these capacities to sign said Corporate Resolution in the place provided therein, and also directs and authorizes the Clerk to complete the Certification required as shown therein and to provide the completed Corporate Resolution to Bernstein. All prior designations of signatory are superseded by this designation of signatories.

The motion was seconded by Carl Nauert and passed unanimously.

Sallie Smylie, Council Moderator, introduced the following motion assigning the Finance Team with responsibilities to monitor the Church’s insurance program. After a friendly amendment, the motion, made Carl Nauert, reads as follows:

That the Finance Team be charged with the responsibility to monitor the amounts and coverage of the Church’s insurance policies (excluding health insurance policies), to evaluate and advise Council on the sufficiency of the Church’s insurance program to mitigate risks posed to the Church, and to assist the Church staff in implementation of decisions with respect to the Church’s insurance program. The Finance Team may appoint a sub-team to be responsible for advising the Finance Team with regard to these matters.

The motion was seconded by Dave Hanson and passed unanimously.

VI. Public Health Task Force (PHTF) Motion – John Edgerton and Amy Cardin

John introduced this and the agenda item in VII by summarizing the impact of the corona virus upon First United and us as individuals. The virus is restricting our ability to be a community to do the things we want to do together (what God made us to be). Unrestricted in-person gathering appears to be a long way off.

Amy Cardin, PHTF Chair, reviewed the task force’s efforts to create the additional building use protocols contained in its October 2020 proposal, which can be found in the October Council packet. The policy and procedures allow staff back in the building, as well as a limited amount of congregational use, in a carefully managed process.

Dave Hanson moved, that Church Council adopt as policy the proposal for staff and limited congregational use of the church building as submitted by the Public Health Task Force (with minor revisions for language consistency). This policy is also subject to ongoing monitoring of public health indicators and guidance by the First United Public Health Task Force. The motion was seconded by Jamie Shamhart.

Following discussion by Council, John Edgerton, John Borrero (member of the PHTF), and Amy Cardin, the motion passed unanimously.

VII. Worship, Music, and Arts (WMA) Live Stream Motion – Charlie Morris

Charlie Morris, Worship, Music and Arts Team Chair, reviewed the WMA report in the Council packet that discusses this team’s research on future options for our worship service once we are able to have our worship service in the sanctuary.

Carl Nauert moved, that the Council concur with the Worship, Music, and the Arts Team proposal to research the Sunday Service live streaming and recording option and then report back to Council with a cost estimate and project plan for implementing live streaming and recording of the Sunday morning service. Dave Hanson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Faith in Action Gun violence Motion – Lois Love

Lois Love, Faith in Action Team Co-Chair, overviewed Illinois Senate bill 1966 and the Faith in Action Team’s proposed plan. More details about the bill and the Faith in Action Team’s proposed plan can be found in the October Council packet. Lois encouraged us to call our State Senator or other State Senators to voice our support of the bill.

Carl Nauert moved, that the Council approve the Faith in Action Team’s proposal in its 10/5/20 Team Report for lobbying activity with respect to Illinois Senate Bill 1966 also known as the Block Illegal Ownership (“BIO”) Bill. Dave Hanson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

IX. Team Report and Motion Process – Sallie Smylie

Sallie presented a memorandum and the proposed template for motions, both of which can be found in the October Council packet. The memo provides the rationale for creating this template for bringing a motion to the Council and the deadline for same.

Carl Nauert made the following motion: Council Leadership moves that Council adopt the attached template and deadline for submission of motions to Council, effective on the date of Council adoption. Sue Saliny seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

X. Staff Reports

Staff reports can be found in the October Council packet on Sharepoint. Alicia Reese referred to the last paragraph in John Edgerton’s report and “lifted it up” as the ministers are seeing a significant rise in pastoral care needs. I have included this paragraph for convenience:

More than anything, however, I want to express that I am concerned for our people. I see the signs of strain and worry over the state of the world. I see the signs that our prolonged period of social distancing is wearing down patience. I see the signs of fear for the future robbing us of the joy of the present. The clergy and staff are pivoting our programming to try to be more responsive to what we perceive the spiritual state of our people to be. But we need the help of all our members. Please call your fellow members. Mail a note to someone who you think highly of at church and tell them why you think they are the bee’s knees. Come to the prayer vigil on All Saints, just two days before the election. Reach out and be connected to the church. We need one another. As always, I am grateful to be your pastor. On days when the world seems overwhelming, I am grateful to know that we are in this together.

XI. Moderator Report – Sallie Smylie

Sallie reported that Ministry Outline kickoff meetings will be convened in the near future for the Ministries charged with priorities under the Ministry Outline.

XII. Team Updates

Team updates may be found in the October Council packet.

XIII. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Dave Hanson moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 pm. The motion was seconded by Jamie Shamhart and approved unanimously. John Edgerton led us in closing prayer.

MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY
SEPTEMBER 1 – October 16, 2020

ITEM	DATE, NAME, FAMILY MEMBERS	TOTAL
Births		0
Baptisms		0
New members		0
Confirmations (also new members)		0
New Members		0
Members removed by request		0
Members removed by Transfer	September 1, 2020 – Jennifer Coble; transferred to Westminster Presbyterian Church in Muenster, IN	1
Members removed by Death	October 5, 2020 -- Phillip Gehring	1

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Nauert, Clerk