



Council Meeting Minutes

Date: November 17, 2020

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Zoom Meeting

- Members:**
- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Sallie Smylie, Moderator | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Carl Nauert, Clerk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Megan Lewis - E | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Alissa Lonergan |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Marteki Reed | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Susan Pierson |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Sue Saliny | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Dan Pietrini |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | John Lurain | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Tim Dull |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Jamie Shamhart | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Dave Hanson |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | John Borrero | <input type="checkbox"/> | Lucas Banout-Kult - E |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Samantha Duwe | | |

- Staff:**
- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Rev. John Edgerton | <input type="checkbox"/> | Alicia Reese - E |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Rev. Lydia Mulkey | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Amanda Swanson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Amy Cardin - E | | |

Guests: Bob Giles, Beth Dickerson, Kathy Pederson, Lois Love, Jim Babcock, and Art Spooner

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

I. Opening Devotion and Prayer – John Lurain

John shared the blessing that he has received -- teaching. Teaching has been rewarding for John throughout his professional career as well as following retirement, when John has volunteered his time with Cluster Tutoring, one of First United's mission partners. John closed by leading us in prayer.

II. Joys, Concerns and Remembrances

We prayed for all public servants (especially those we work with), an uncle currently in the hospital with Covid, and pre-school workers who are under constant stress as Covid moves ever closer.

III. Agenda Approval

Carl Nauert moved that Council approve the draft agenda. The motion was seconded by Jamie Shamhart and passed unanimously.

IV. Omnibus Motion – Carl Nauert

Carl Nauert moved that Council approve the following:

Council Meeting minutes - October 20, 2020
Special Council Minutes, Newcomers Meeting – October 20, 2020

The motion was seconded by Jamie Shamhart and passed unanimously.

V. Community Minister – John Edgerton

John introduced Beth Dickerson, a retired UCC Minister, and presented an overview of what our ministers envision her role would be as a Community Minister. Please see the November Council packet to see the role description along with the rationale.

Carl moved that Council accept with thanks Beth Dickerson’s offer to serve as a volunteer Community Minister to support the pastoral staff with providing pastoral care and counseling to the congregation and to assist with other support as described in the Proposal in the Council’s November packet.

The motion was seconded by Jamie Shamhart and passed unanimously.

VI. John Edgerton Update to Council

John shared that Pastoral Associate Alicia Reese has tested positive for COVID-19, as has several members of Alicia’s family. The aunt of Alicia’s husband also has died unexpectedly. We extend our sympathies to Alicia and prayers for healing.

John announced that we will going back to our earlier building rules and will suspend the October policy changes. John will send a letter to the congregation with these announcements soon. Sallie made the following motion:

Moved that the building use protocol recently adopted that permits use of the building by staff and for limited special events be temporarily suspended, with use of the building governed by the earlier-adopted policy requiring an appointment and use of the building for essential purposes only.

Carl Nauert seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VII. Financial Reports – Bob Giles

Bob Giles, Finance Team Chair, announced that the Finance Team will be pursuing a building appraisal for insurance purposes and that a sub-group of the Finance Team is evaluating unemployment insurance. Bob answered questions about the November financial reports, which are in the November Council packet.

Sallie Smylie introduced the next financial topic, the Facing Forward Line of Credit Guaranty. Sallie reviewed the church's long history providing a guaranty for Facing Forward's line of credit with Eagle Bank and shared that there are no restrictions on the church continuing to provide this guaranty from the viewpoint of Alliance Bernstein. The Finance Team views that this action will not cause any undue burden on the church. Please see the November Council packet for additional information.

Dave Hanson moved that Council: (a) approve First United entering into a Guaranty in the amount of \$25,000 to support a line of credit provided by First Eagle Bank to Facing Forward to End Homelessness; (b) authorize Carl Nauert to enter into the Clerk's Certificate attached to this motion; and (c) authorize Sallie G. Smylie, the Moderator of the Church Council, on behalf of the Church, to execute the Guaranty and to take any and all other actions necessary or advisable to consummate its terms.

The motion was seconded by Carl Nauert and it passed unanimously.

VIII. Community Solar – Art Spooner and Jim Babcock

Art Spooner and Jim Babcock reviewed the highlights of their PowerPoint presentation, which can be found in the November Council packet, regarding the church entering into agreements to subscribe to a community solar project. Amanda Swanson, Manager of Operations, voiced her support of the recommendation and indicated that the Building and Grounds Team supports it. The Faith in Action Team and the Finance Team also support the recommendation.

Dave Hanson moved that Council authorize entry by First United into subscription agreements with Nexamp, as described in the submission dated November 17, 2020 by Faith in Action's Environmental Justice sub-team, to enable First United's participation in Illinois' Community Solar Program.

Marteki Reed seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IX. State of the Church Discussion – Sallie Smylie

Sallie began this sixty-minute discussion stating that Council Leadership believes that we should reflect on the state of our church during this pandemic, focusing on what has changed, what has stayed the same, and what the answers to these questions mean for how we prioritize our time, talents, and resources. Discussion ensued, with Council members identifying various needs and concerns about feelings of isolation and lack of insight into the church's system of care. Sallie stated that the Leadership Team will discuss the feedback in coming weeks and develop strategies with the appropriate church personnel to address the issues identified in this discussion.

X. Sponsorship of an Asylum Family – Kathy Pederson and Lois Love

Sallie introduced Kathy Pederson, a member of the Faith in Action Team who authored the proposal for supporting an asylum family, which can be found in the November Council packet. Kathy updated us on the asylum-seeking family identified in the proposal, noting the family is now considering moving to Portland, Maine to join other Angolan friends with whom the family has shared the asylum journey. If this family decides to move to Portland, St. Christopher's Episcopal Church is prepared to sponsor another asylum-seeking family. Accordingly, the Faith in Action Team requests that its proposal be taken up for First United to support an asylum-seeking family in partnership with St. Christopher's Episcopal Church.

Carl Nauert made the following motion: Faith in Action recommends that Council approve the proposal described in Kathy Pederson's Report to the Faith in Action team dated November 9, 2020, for First United to be a "Supporting Sponsor" of the primary sponsor, St Christopher's Episcopal Church, of an asylum-seeking family.

Jamie Shamhart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XI. Staff Reports

Staff reports can be found in the November Council packet on Sharepoint. In lieu of a written report, Amanda shared that she has been working on several technology projects and a new building use agreement.

XII. Moderator Report – Sallie Smylie

Sallie reported on four topics:

1. Honderich – Omert Gift: The Honderich/Omert family has offered to donate a piano to First United. The piano was owned by Ken's sister Marilyn, who recently passed away. Bill Chin and Michael Surratt support the church receiving this gift.

Carl Nauert moved that Council agrees to accept from Ken Honderich and Teri Omert the gift of a Chickering 42" console piano on the terms of their offer, and that this gift be acknowledged in the manner prescribed by the Gift Policy.

The motion was seconded by Marteki Reed and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Boy Scouts: Organizations that have sponsored Boy Scout troops had until November 16, 2020 to file protective claims against the Boy Scouts in case those sponsoring organizations are named in any lawsuits. On learning of this deadline, the Leadership Team asked Tom Wolford to file a protective claim on behalf of the church, which was done on Monday, November 16th. This filing is a contingency in the event the church were to be sued. To date, neither Scout Troop 16 nor the church has been named in any suit. Troop leaders will be notified of the filing.

3. Ministry Outline: There are four ministries teams that have begun discussions on their assigned priorities under the Ministry Outline. Sallie is pleased with the progress.
4. Council Leadership Positions: Sallie asked that Elders consider self-nominating for Vice-Moderator and the 2021-2022 Clerk.

XIII. Team Updates

Team updates may be found in the November Council packet. Marteki Reed reported that the Stewardship Team is working on inspirational videos for the upcoming Stewardship Campaign. The team has decided to move the 2021-2022 Stewardship Campaign to after Easter.

XIV. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Dave Hanson moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 pm. The motion was seconded by Jamie Shamhart and approved unanimously. John Edgerton led us in closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Nauert, Clerk