

FCC Council Meeting
Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Present: Moderator Bob Brandemuehl, Moderator-Elect Kay Rowntree, Treasurer Jean Brocker, Secretary Joanne Himebauch, Pastor Mark Hensley, Janine Coley, Jamie Pennington, Rae-Ellen Preuss, Sue Roberts, Brad Charles, Jennifer Schmitz

Absent: Karla Pennington

Call to Order - Moderator Bob Brandemuehl

Opening Prayer by Kay Rowntree

Devotional Time - Pastor Mark read Luke 2:1-7. Take a deep breath and listen for what God says to us next as a congregation and as leaders of the church. In the story of Joseph & Mary, everything went wrong, but God still was born. We are better as a congregation now than we were 1 or 2 years ago. Let's be Bethlehem people - people who are willing to change. We, as leaders, must help the congregation walk this new direction / path.

Approval of November minutes: Jamie moved and Janine seconded to approve the November 12 Council minutes. Motion carried.

New Business:

Temperature in the Sanctuary: The thermostat in the Sanctuary wasn't working. Rae-Ellen called Nick Beilfuss from Johnson Control to take a look. One thermostat in the back of the church and one of the thermostats in the Fellowship Hall were damaged by lightning. The cost to replace will be around \$4,000 for Sanctuary and \$1973 for the Fellowship Hall. In our boiler room, the time clock in the green box got stuck. Nick fixed that. He will consider removing it and using a direct system. But he also sends word to the Council that, "The boilers are fine!!! " The auxiliary furnaces need work, but it is not an urgent situation.

Lightning Strike Update: Pastor Mark says that we need to get 2 quotes for everything. For the electrical work - Carini & Tap. Carini specializes in church work. We have 2 quotes for the furnace work. We have one quote for the organ. Joanne is working on getting the second quote from Allen Organ. They may be able to supply us with a Carillon quote, as well. (Update: After nudging Dean Rosko of Allen Organ two more times, he finally responded. He told me that he will "get me a quote tomorrow - Wednesday, December 17, but that he has not been able to find someone to replace the Carillon". I actually contacted 4 different companies that I found through a Google search and am waiting to hear back. They are Chimemaster, Technomad, Lee Manufacturing, and Bells of America. There were several other companies I could contact, but I thought I'd start with these.)

Insurance says that if something that was ruined or damaged during the lightning strike is a "have-to" problem, we can fix it now. Our sanctuary is important to our "business." We need two quotes for the base of the bell tower and two quotes for the Carillon. The sound, computer, and screen monitors are already replaced. We can't get the air conditioning quotes until spring. Most likely the air conditioners by the sanctuary were impacted. Bob suggested we turn them on to see if they are working or not. He also suggested that we disconnect the electrical from the tower and attach a carillon speaker to the church itself. Pastor Mark handed out an update sheet about the Lightning strike. (I will include it with these minutes.)

CD Renewal. Jean told us that we have a CD that needs renewing. It is worth about \$11,000 from the reserve fund. Jean is asking permission to roll it over for another 7 months. Jean moved and Kay seconded to renew it. Motion carried.

Make sure that doors are locked and closed tightly! When Jean came on Monday, the upstairs door on the right facing out was ajar. We need to be more careful and check the doors on our way out to make sure that they click.

Staff Christmas Bonuses: We have \$450 set aside in the budget for gifts. Last year, we gave \$200 for Judi (office manager), \$150 for Marni (organist / pianist / choir director), and \$100 for Cassie (custodian). Joanne and Jean suggested that we divide it as follows: \$175 for Judi, \$175 for Marni, and \$100 for the custodian. Janine moved and Jean seconded to give \$175 each to Marni & Judi, and \$100 for Cassie. Motion carried.

Parsonage Sale Committee Discussion. Bob suggested that our new Parsonage Committee get together after the new year to get the ball rolling. Jennifer wanted to go through with Bob to look at the parsonage, so they will do that prior to the meeting.

First meeting - Wednesday, January 7th at 3 PM.

Elevator problem - This past Sunday, Jamie Brandemuehl got stuck once again in the elevator on the lower level. The lift would not go up. Bob had to get a wheel chair from upstairs, and then lift her up the stairs in the wheel chair. Pastor Mark mentioned that although there are no wheel-chair bound participants in Tri-Skill currently, we need to be handicapped accessible.

Rae-Ellen presented us with a quote from Metro Elevator. This company is from Green Bay with a Milwaukee branch. The new lift would be retro-fitted to the shaft space that exists already. There are new standards to meet. We need to have a door that opens automatically, instead of one that pulls open, like we currently have. The quote from Metro Elevator of \$59,800 will most likely be lower, because their quote included taxes, and we are a tax-exempt organization. Kay asked about the warranty, which we discovered is on the last page of the quote. They would then become our new repair people. Kay asked about the work permit. Typically the contractor gets this. We need to replace our lift to be ADA compliant.

Rae-Ellen suggested that we explain our financial situation to Jennifer & Brad. We were gifted \$100,000 from People's Church (Pastor Mark's former church) and we will get money from the sale of the parsonage.

Jamie asked about the CD of \$100,000 (gift from People's Church), but it comes due in March. Jean mentioned that we have \$68,000 liquid cash in our reserves. Then it was mentioned that maybe we shouldn't roll over the CD of \$11,000+. Kay moved and Jean seconded to rescind our previous vote about rolling over the CD. Motion carried.

Janine moved and Kay seconded to accept the Metro Elevator quote not to exceed \$62,000. Motion carried. (Rae-Ellen suggested that we have a ribbon cutting with Jamie Brandemuehl when it gets installed.)

Old Business:

Handicapped parking signage - Kay says that we can get this taken care of for under \$500. Kay is waiting for the cost of the base. Jean asked about putting a handicapped space at the top of the drive, but it is not wide enough to legally do this.

Brad suggested that we request that we **salt the parking lot**. It is a hazard currently. Rae-Ellen will try to call our plow guy tonight.

Council Position information packet: Pastor Mark gave each of us a packet describing the positions of Council according to Roberts' Rules for the new people. We also passed on the Directors' binders to Brad & Jennifer.

Hope Center Meals for 2026. Kay asked about confirming the Hope Center dates for 2026 that were sent to us. Mark already did that.

Long-Range Planning Committee: The committee will be meeting on Thursday, December 18th with Jim Filicetti to discuss our financial status as a church. Jim asked about getting 2 years of financials for him to see the big picture. Brad asked to join the group. He has an MBA and is a Certified Financial Planner.

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 14th, 2026

Pastor Mark closed us in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Himebauch
Council Secretary

Directors' Reports December 10, 2025

Christian Ed – Sue Roberts

Nursery – Sue is working on getting a nursery attendant for the 4 PM Christmas Eve service.

Youth Sunday School – Nothing to report.

Congregational Care – Janine Coley

Hospitality / Welcome (Joanne) – We are working on buying a small freezer to keep the cookies for the Welcome bags, so that Joanne doesn't have to run to the basement freezer every time. Also, Pastor Mark and Joanne are working on a coffee station for the Narthex.

Fellowship (Joanne)– December was busy! We had a Midnight Magic Parade Party at the Himebauch's and will be caroling at the residences of our shut-ins on December 21st. We are also planning our White Elephant Gift Exchange & Potluck for January.

Visitation (Joanne & Janine)– Carter Albrecht and I delivered the lotion / socks bags to Linden this past week. We also passed out cookies to the residents. We spent a few minutes with Dorothy Chapman and Scott, but alas, a 4-year-old doesn't like to sit around for long. Janine visits Dorothy & Scott regularly!

Property & Grounds – Rae-Ellen Preuss

Rae-Ellen will give an update at the Council meeting about the Elevator and the auxiliary furnaces.