

February 2026 Council Minutes

Present: Moderator Kay Rowntree, Moderator-Elect Ryan Venema, Treasurer Jean Bocker, Secretary Joanne Himebauch, Pastor Mark Hensley, Brad Charles, Jamie Pennington, Karla Pennington, Rae-Ellen Preuss, Jennifer Schmitz; guest, - Bob Brandemuehl

Kay opened the meeting at 6:32 PM & Sue opened us in prayer.

Devotional Time- Pastor Mark- Book of Matthew. The disciples were admiring the Temple, but Jesus talked about the destruction of the Temple as the beginning of birth pains. Something is being born. We need to be faithful to the labor happening in our church. God is birthing something new here at FCC.

Approval of January 2026 minutes. Rae-Ellen asked to add “around” the end of March about the elevator. Jean moved and Ryan seconded to accept the minutes as amended. Motion carried.

How to read the Financial Information. Jean walked us through how to read the financial information on the Budget vs Actuals & Balance Sheet. We have a 7-month CD that has come due. Jean wanted to know whether we should roll it into another 7-month CD or should we add it to the Reserve fund. Jamie suggested a Mutual Fund through the NACCC, which can be taken out quarterly. We would need \$2500 to open the account. Jean mentioned that we have 1 other CDs from the Reserve fund coming due on March 20th. Pastor Mark mentioned that we need some cash available, so he suggested that we not tie up the money right now, but put it in the Reserve fund so that it is available.

We will also have some costs to get the parsonage ready. Rae-Ellen asked if we have \$20,000 or so available for these costs. The consensus was to pull the money out of the CD and not roll it over.

Finance Director report. Jamie talked about the meeting with Jim Filicetti, who advised us on our church’s finances. Jim suggested that we put the money from the sale of the parsonage into an endowment. Jamie feels that an endowment at about 9.46% would be a wise choice. We would have a perpetual source of income that way. We could set it up ourselves, or Jim would set it up for a small fee. Jim would be willing to come to the Council to talk with us.

Jamie moved and Rae-Ellen seconded that we contract with Jim Filicetti to set up the endowment account, paying him an amount not to exceed \$1,000 and that we ask him to come to our Council meeting in April. Motion carried. Rae-Ellen offered to call Jim and set it up, but it was decided to wait until after the March 8 business meeting to contact him.

Jamie also brought up Maxwell St. Days. Our profit is going down every year and we have a difficult time getting volunteers. We decided to go with just a paper sign up, rather than an on-line version, because not everyone is comfortable signing up on-line. Ryan suggested that we ask the Boy Scouts to help us with Maxwell St. Days. This year, the dates for Maxwell St. Days are June 13-14, July 18-19, August 15-16, and September 12-13.

Boy Scout Sunday is March 29. We will ask the Scouts then if they are willing and able to help us.. The Scouts have also expressed a desire to clean up the back garden (behind Fellowship Hall). Ryan will talk to the leaders about these 2 possibilities.

Membership Review - After review, we moved Scott Chapman to the membership list, and removed Wil Manion, due to his passing.

SOP review update - we will get an update at next month’s meeting. Jamie suggested including Janine Coley because she has the most knowledge about SOPs. We need to look at financials, safety, and hiring and firing of the minister. After some reflection, Jennifer decided not to be part of the SOPs revision group.

Parsonage Sale update - Bob Brandemuehl. He talked about surveying the property to include the western lots as part of the church to give us 60% green space. The property line would be about 4 feet East of Jackie Craig’s tree. Bob talked about comparable properties and what they sold for. We had

consulted with 4 realtors. Our parsonage lot size is bigger than anything in town. We feel that we would try to sell it for \$450,000. We do have costs coming: getting a steel door in the basement - \$970. We must separate the water line from the church - \$7993 (Martens quote.). We might need to hire a lawyer. We need to pay David Beilfuss, our electrician. - \$570. Fireplace - fixing \$1,200.

Do we need a realtor? Ryan and Pastor Mark think we do. Brad moved and Jean seconded to cover the necessary expenses of the surveyor, electrician, and plumber for a total not to exceed \$15,000. Motion carried.

Lightning strike update - Everything has been replaced or fixed except the tower concrete, and the grounding of the base, the carillon, and the organ.

There is one air conditioner that needs replacing, but this has nothing to do with the lightning strike. Rae-Ellen will talk to Long-Range Planning about replacing it.

Carillon proposal - we requested Memorial money, which is in a CD currently. It is due in late June. Mark suggested that we could use the money that was available from the other CD (that Jean talked about tonight) in the meantime. Jamie talked with the Memorial Committee about using the funds. They seem to be on board. Jamie will talk with them again now that he knows the amounts needed and get back to us.

Jennifer talked about wanting to start doing **visitations to our shut-ins**. Janine Coley agreed to introduce her to the shut-ins. Rae-Ellen offered to help with communions.

Joanne will fill out the form for **ProHealth Cancer walk to use the church parking lot** and give it to Rae-Ellen.

Annual Report & March Annual Meeting Agenda - We talked about getting all of the reports prepared and to Judi, our office manager, and then put them out on the Communications table for members to preview before the March 8th business meeting. This needs to happen by Sunday, February 22.

Fair Share - was collected in November. The funds still need to be processed. Jean agreed to take care of this.

Brad updated us about meeting with **Missions** the last 2 Sundays. We also reported that the Women's Center in Waukesha took all the children's bags (40) and 32 women's bags. They didn't have space to take all of the women's bags that we put together. We decided to give the rest to the TriSkill leaders. The Women's Center declined the Project Linus blankets due to lack of available space. Sue will find another location to accept those quilts.

Brad also mentioned the need to get people in our doors at FCC. Once people come to our church, they feel so very welcome. But how do we get them here? Sue suggested that we get Marni to make some more FCC wear, but use the bigger logos that go all across the front of our t-shirts. We will hand out crosses and business cards to the Boy Scouts on March 29. Joanne will talk to Marni soon about creating more t-shirts with the bigger logos.

Our next meeting is March 13. Kay will supply pizza at 6 PM. The Meeting itself will start at 6:30.

We will have the annual meeting on March 8th after church.

Joanne moved and Karla seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Pastor Mark closed us in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Himebauch
Council Secretary

February Directors' Reports

Christian Ed - Sue Roberts

Youth Sunday School - Joanne Himebauch
Nothing to report.

Nursery - Sue Roberts
Nothing to report.

Adult Bible Study - Pastor Mark Hensley
Nothing to report.

Congregational Care - Jennifer Schmitz

Jennifer gave an oral update at the Council meeting.

Missions - Brad Charles

Brad gave an oral update at the Council meeting.

Property & Grounds - Rae-Ellen Preuss

This month our technician from Johnson Controls (JCI) came to repair the heating units in the sanctuary and the Triskill room. It was necessary to wait until all of the electrical work was completed.

Nick Beilfuss came today to service the units. He will also be checking out the AC units for damage from the lightning strike. I am hoping to give the Council an update at Wednesday's meeting about the AC. We might not have an estimate of the cost right away; but I'm asking Nick to at least tell me if the AC units were damaged or not.

I met with Nick and his supervisor and was given a new contract for 2026-2027. Our contract runs from May 1, 2026 to April 30, 2027. The cost will be \$4,734 for the year. It includes a spring maintenance and a fall/winter maintenance. We are also given 10% off for labor and parts outside of the agreement. Nick is on call for emergencies.

I am looking for a vote to sign a new contract with Johnson Controls for the upcoming year. If we want, Nick is available to check over the furnace and AC in the parsonage prior to its sale. We do not have a contract with JCI for parsonage maintenance, so the cost would be outside of our current contract. I don't have an estimate of the cost for this visit.

David Beilfuss, our electrician, has completed the work that was needed in the parsonage. He has submitted a bill for \$570.00. Unless we find something else that needs attention, I believe the parsonage electrical work is completed.

Worship - Karla Hartley

No report given.