

FCC Council Minutes
Wednesday August 13, 2025
6:30 pm

Present: Moderator-Elect Kay Rowntree, Treasurer Jean Broker, Secretary Joanne Himebauch, Pastor Mark Hensley, Janine Coley, Jamie Pennington, Karla Pennington, Rae-Ellen Preuss

Absent: Moderator Bob Brandemuehl, Sue Roberts

Call to Order: Kay

Opening Prayer: Janine

Devotional Time: Pastor Mark. FCC has been hurt. There has been division, disappointment, disillusion, and trauma. But we have not lost our identity. We are not done yet!

Approval of Meeting Minutes: July 9, 2025. Janine moved and Karla seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

National Organization of Project Linus.- Kristin Kolinsky. Project Linus creates blankets out of donations for police departments, fire departments, hospitals, Angels Grace Hospice, etc. They meet on the 1st & 3rd Fridays of each month from about 9:15 -11:00. Until the building was closed, they had been meeting at the UCC. Currently, they have been storing their materials in a rented storage unit, but they are looking for a meeting place and a home for shelves for blankets and supplies. They would need about 100-180 square feet of space. They had asked almost every church in Mukwonago, and had been told 'no.' After Kristin left, the Council discussed it for a bit. Joanne moved and Janine seconded to approve storage space in the backpack room and use of the adult classroom for their gatherings. Motion carried. Jamie asked for them to do a short presentation to the congregation. Mark will invite them on Friday to see the space and ask for a short presentation.

New Business:

Planning for Church Growth – Pastor Mark handed us an AI-generated list of what 20 year olds through 70 year olds are looking for in a Christian church today. He asked that we look through the materials about that and the other materials that Pastor Mark provided.

Council Support Scholarship toward Jamie Pennington's – Lay Ministry Program thru the NACCC. If we give a scholarship of at least \$200 to Jamie, the NACCC will match it, and the WCA will also add an amount. Janine suggested use of the Memorial Fund, because several of the fund donations were designated for books. Mark mentioned Missions money could be used also. We have \$9,000 in Missions right now. Joanne moved and Rae-Ellen seconded to spend \$500 of church funds to help Jamie fund his Lay Ministry

Program. Motion carried. Jamie & Karla abstained. Janine moved and Rae-Ellen seconded to take the \$500 out of the Missions fund. Motion carried.

Becoming A member of FCC Document Approval – (from July meeting) •

Janine handed out a document from 2017 and a rewritten document as well. Jamie moved and Jean seconded to approve the updated Membership policy (and put it in the SOP & Policies binder. Motion carried.

Parsonage – Sale – Pros and Cons – We need to make a decision by our October meeting so we can present it to the membership at the November Business meeting. Kay will write an article and mention it from the pulpit.

The School Roof has been completed. Jamie asked about the repairs that Bob made. The company reimbursed him. Jean mentioned that the repairs cost \$30,238. TriSkill mentioned that there has been no more leaking at all.

Replacing the AC units in the sanctuary. We need to readjust the thermostat to make sure that the sanctuary is not so cold on Sundays. But we also need to keep the fans on to circulate the air. The TriSkill AC unit was replaced last year for a cost of about \$7,000. Kay suggested that we get a quote for replacing one or both. We can discuss the findings at the next meeting.

Parking Lot Seal Coating – Rae Ellen – Do we want a quote to do the sealing after Maxwell St. Parking is finished? Karla mentioned that costs will go up in the spring, and that we should get a quote now and do it in the fall. Jamie mentioned that we might get a better price by doing it now. Council recommended that we get two bids for the fall.

Sanctuary Sound System – Any more improvements that need to be made? We are making progress. Everything seems fine, but Karla mentioned that it is hard for her to hear in the back of the sanctuary.

Downstairs flooring replacement. Now that the roof is fixed, should we pursue this? Karla mentioned that we have the air conditioning to be fixed and the furnaces might go at any time. Perhaps we should wait. Should we use the money Mark's old church gave us? Perhaps if we sell the parsonage we could look at flooring in the Fellowship Hall and at refreshing the sanctuary. We decided to table this issue.

What should we do with the \$100,000 gift from Pastor Mark's former church?

Janine moved and Jean seconded to invest the \$100,000 gift into a highest bearing CD. Jamie moved and Joanne seconded to form an ad hoc committee to explore what we can do with the \$100,000. This ad hoc committee will include Jamie, Janine, and Jean, who all volunteered. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee – Janine & Rae-Ellen have been actively working on replacing Beth as the Missions Director. They have received a maybe from one person and one other person declined. They are beginning to work on a new slate of officers for next year.

Missions- Pastor Mark would like to chair & rebuild this committee for a year. We need to include more outreach. Several members have expressed interest.

Long Range Planning Committee – Tabled.

Anything from the floor?

Volunteers for Maxwell St. Parking. We still need some volunteers.

Cleaning update - Mark said that we interviewed a woman named Sarah. She has until the 15th to decide. Sue & Tom are also thinking about it. Jean got a call today about another possibility. Jenna Appel will be interviewed Monday at 3 PM.

Next Council Meeting: September 10, 2025 6:30

Closing Prayer & Adjournment. Pastor Mark closed us in prayer. Rae-Ellen moved and Jean seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Himebauch

Council Secretary

August 2025 Directors' Reports

Christian Ed - Sue Roberts

Carter is the only child in the nursery, so we all try to help out when Carter is with us .

Sunday school will be looking for volunteers, but may be trying a different path until we get more children.

Congregational Care - Janine Coley

Hospitality - Joanne Himebauch

I had to re-order some new items for the Welcome bags. We've handed out quite a few bags to visitors over the spring and summer months!

Fellowship- Joanne Himebauch

I'm having trouble picking a date for the FCC picnic. Maxwell St Days and other things have interfered with possible dates. So.... ultimately, I thought I would combine it with the Consecration Sunday event, whenever that gets scheduled (end of September?)

Also, I hope to schedule with the Rowntrees a bonfire/ hayride for October and a Celebration of Music in early to mid-November.

Prayer Chain - Beth Petersen

Nothing from Prayer Ministry

Funeral/Wedding Hostess/Archives - Rae-Ellen Preuss

Nothing to report.

Visitation - Janine

Thank you to Joanne and Gary for visiting Wil Manion.

Property & Grounds - Rae-Ellen Preuss

I wanted to get this out before the next Council meeting. Nick Beilfuss, our new HVAC technician, was at church this past Monday. He performed his routine check up on our AC systems.

He found significant issues. The back of the sanctuary gets very cold while the front is very hot. Our 25 year old thermostats were off by 4-5 degrees in calibration. He suggested replacing them. I authorized this to be done. He also found that the panels of the AC units were blocking air flow. These vents are located above the AC units and just above the clock. It has caused a temperature difference of 20 (twenty, not a typo) degrees between the front and back of the church. He removed the panels and the room temperature became "even" throughout. He also recommended that whenever we are using the AC, that we also turn the ceiling fans on. Just an FYI, the vents are now visible and we can either leave them alone, or paint them. (Nick's suggestion) The panels were fabric with a wood framework. He also inspected the units at my request, since one of the units froze twice and the other unit froze out once. He said the unit that froze twice should be replaced, more sooner, than later. This was also a suggestion from our long range planning committee at the time we had the problem. These AC units date back to the early 2000s. One of the units downstairs was replaced last year. Nick said they seem to be fine.

I'd like to discuss this at our next Council meeting.

I'm really glad we switched to Nick and Johnson Controls. I think we'll have better service.