

August 5, 2026 Council Minutes

Present: Moderator Kay Rowntree, Moderator-Elect Ryan Venema, Treasurer Jean Brocker, Secretary Joanne Himebauch, Pastor Mark Hensley, Brad Charles (by phone), Jamie Pennington (Happy Birthday!), Karla Pennington, Rae-Ellen Preuss, Jennifer Schmitz

Kay called the meeting to order just after 6:30. Jamie opened the meeting with a prayer.

Devotional time - Pastor Mark. It seems that we are always looking for something, searching for peace. Isaiah 49:15-16 reminds us that we are always in God's care. We will be having a potluck on the 20th. We will also hand out the new FCC cookbooks on that date. The 3 Sundays will revolve around the Stone Soup story.

Jean moved and Jamie seconded to accept the minutes from the July 8, 2026 meeting. Motion carried.

Jean went through the details of the **Treasurer's report**.

Jamie told us that the **Long-Range Planning** Committee met on Monday, creating a priority list of about 20 items, ranking them as low, medium, and high priority. Jamie will get the list to us and we can review it at our September meeting.

We have at least one member covering each shift for Maxwell St. Days on August 15. The Scouts will again cover the Sunday shifts.

Giving Sundays will be September 6, 13, and 20th, culminating with a potluck on the 20th. The 3 Sundays will be based on the Stone Soup story. Jamie will be preaching one of the Sundays. We will provide pledge cards in the bulletin and have the lock box in the back of the Sanctuary to place them, or people can put them in the offering plate, if they wish. We will hand out the new FCC cookbooks on the 20th also.

Parsonage & Investment Update - Kay. We had received 5 solid offers and chose the one that had the least contingencies. The final walk-through was tonight. The closing day of the sale is tomorrow, August 6th. Kay has already signed all the documents, and Heidi Bergstadt will get the check to us. We will put the check in the safe until we get the endowment fund set up. Kay tried to sign those documents electronically, but ran into difficulties. She will visit Jim Filicetti to sign them on paper. Brad is taking the lead with Jim F's help to set up the endowment with the funds of the parsonage sale. We had talked about putting together a Welcome Basket for the new owners. Joanne offered to take care of this in the next few days, including some FCC gifts, such as coffee mugs and items from our Welcome Bag. She will also get a couple of gift cards from around town. Heidi Bergstadt will be providing coffee hour on Sunday to thank the church for our business. Heidi was such a big help to the parsonage committee. She kept us well-informed through the entire process. We would like to thank her, as well!

SOP process. Pastor Mark has been working on this. He hopes to have the rough draft ready by the end of August. It will include Budget & Finance info, Church Safety, and Maintenance procedures. Rae-Ellen mentioned that Judi has a check list for the Property and Grounds director to use to know when certain things need to happen during the year.

Other Business?

1. The TV in the Sanctuary on the left side is no longer working. Pastor Mark figures he can get one for around \$500. Joanne moved and Karla seconded to approve up to \$600 to be taken from Capital Improvements. Motion carried. Jamie & Karla will help him install it on Friday afternoon. Jamie pointed out that the Village no longer has a recycle day, but that we can call John's Disposal to get our old electronic equipment taken away.
2. TriSkill Shed - Jess Ballard has done the research on getting a new shed for their bikes and other outdoor equipment to replace the old parsonage shed. There needs to be a permit from the Village and they have to approve the location of the shed, too. Joanne moved and Jean seconded to direct Jess from TriSkill to take the lead on the project, with Joanne as FCC liaison.
3. Joanne talked to the Council about the new Mukwonago Library improvement plan. FCC donated about \$500 during the last library capital campaign, and asked if we might donate again. Pastor Mark asked what the amount needed to be to get our name listed. Joanne promised to find out. (*Donations of \$500 or above will get us on the Digital Donor Display list. Donations of \$25,000 will get the donor's name on the physical donor wall.*) We will discuss this further at our next meeting.
4. Rae-Ellen talked about the need to take down some dead trees and trim some trees & bushes on the property. Tod Day has offered to do all the needed work for \$625, which will include grinding the two stumps. She moved and Jean seconded to allow Tod Day to do this work for \$625. Motion carried.
5. Rae-Ellen also talked about how Bob Brandemuehl is the only one who knows how to turn on and turn off the boilers. She contacted Johnson Controls, and they will add this service to our yearly contract for \$809. It will take Nick Beilfuss about 4 extra hours each season to do this. Rae-Ellen moved and Karla seconded to add this service to our Johnson Controls contract. Motion carried.
6. Rae-Ellen discussed how there are many lights not working in the Koeffler Hall. We discovered this at the church picnic. The entire basement and the Lounge need to be converted to LED lights, which will save us money in the long run. A master electrician needs to do this type of work. Rae-Ellen will contact Matt Carini for a bid. If it is more than \$5,000, she will get a second bid, as well. She will report back to the Council next month.
7. Church Growth. Jennifer had some ideas, as did Brad & Mark. Pastor Mark is making a concerted effort to try some FB and Instagram ads targeted to people who are tired of the big mega churches. Brad & Pastor Mark will also be working on a series of podcasts to showcase our church, and then also share them as short sound bites, too. They will utilize Pastor Mark's Biker Preacher persona. Karla suggested that we make more videos like the ones we aired last year around Easter, featuring church members inviting folks to our church. Jennifer's ideas included changing / enlarging the FCC sign by Life's Connections, as well as the one on the edge of the Village. She also thought we needed to add a cross to the church grounds. Jamie shared a simple cross that they have in Genesee Depot that would be a nice addition. Jennifer also suggested utilizing our kitchen for cooking classes... with a volunteer chef. Pastor Mark suggested classes in practical family skills such as changing a tire, too. Kay also suggested that we take our phone number off of our electric sign and add our worship time, and that we need to keep the lights on all night, rather than an end time.

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 9 at 6:30. Kay will not be here, so Ryan will run the meeting, but Kay will provide the agenda.

Pastor Mark closed us in prayer, and Kay adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Himebauch
Council Secretary

August 2026 Directors' Reports

Congregational Care - Jennifer Schmitz

Missions & Church Growth - Brad Charles

We are continuing to supply back packs and small household appliances for The Hope Center through the summer. They are extremely grateful for our donations. I took another carload of items to them on Friday last week.

Rae Ellen was kind enough to donate a meat slicer and the Center was very glad to receive it. Evidently, they have been borrowing meat slicers for some time now. Nancy purchased nine back packs on Facebook Marketplace and will drop them off on Monday this week.

In an effort to help with the relief effort in Venezuela, we donated \$250 to the Salvation Army. The Missions Team will also be discussing possibly donating to the tornado relief effort in the Fox Valley.

Will be having a Missions Team meeting with Janine on August 9th to see what we can do to support the Food for Families program in a different way. Rather than simply buying food items, we may ask the congregation to donate food items as an alternative or just for extra support.

The fall donation drive will be toddler clothes and diapers for the Life Connection in Mukwonago. They said they have plenty of donations for newborns, but virtually nothing for older children.

In regard to the growth of our church, I am in the process of writing the outlines and scripted questions for the podcasts Mark and I will be recording. It is our plan to record several podcasts at once, so I have to put it all together before we can get together.

Property & Grounds - Rae-Ellen Preuss

I called Marten's Plumbing for a bathroom leak from the ladies' room. Triskill reported that water was coming through into the kitchen near the stoves. This was a new leak; at this time, I'm not sure of the cause.

Judi notified, at my direction, WE Energies, our homeowner's insurance company, the lawn service and the snowplowing service that the parsonage was sold. Closing is 8/6/26. I believe the water utility for the village is also being notified. Keys have been turned over to the new owners; the keys and garage door openers were left in the kitchen drawer.

I have contacted Tod Day for an estimate to do some tree work for us.

The flowering crab tree by the northwest corner will be removed, as that tree is mostly dead. There is a tree near the office windows that needs a lower branch removed, since it interferes with lawn mowing.

The "lilac" tree near the back entrance will be slightly trimmed as it is rubbing on the building. And the cedar tree by the handicapped parking stall near the lot line will be removed. The pine tree also by the back entrance will be trimmed since there are branches touching the building. Brush and wood will be removed and two stumps will be ground out from the trees being taken down. Total cost: \$625. The work will be done toward the end of August, as there are hummingbirds nesting there right now.

I am requesting a vote for this.

I have a quote from JCI (Johnson Controls) for adding our technician, Nick Beilfuss to turn on the boilers in the fall and off in the spring.

He would add this to his regular maintenance schedule. The cost would be \$809. Total cost for our HVAC maintenance agreement for 5/1/2026 to 4/30/2027 would be \$5,543.00. I believe this includes the increase for our regular services, not only adding the on/off service.

I am requesting a vote for this.

We have many lights out in the Koeffler Hall. I believe this area and the lounge are the only two rooms in the church (not including the backpack and old choir room) that do not have LED lights. I would like to hire Matt Carini, the master electrician, to change the light fixtures to LED. I don't have a quote right now.

Can I go ahead or do we need a quote? Matt has done all of our other electrical work since the lightning strike.

Treasurer's Report - Jean Bocker

We own 64 shares of Citizen's Bank stock. An update arrived in the mail today. The change in valuation from a year ago is up \$43.75 per share or 18.6%. The valuation as of June 30, 2026 is \$279 per share for a total value of \$17,856.

I paid the second half of the Carillion which was \$7432. It is now paid in full from the Memorial Fund for which we are grateful. The remainder in the Memorial Fund is \$3,357.49. Judi will need direction on how to report the Memorial Fund to Council going forward. Please see the Balance Sheet financial report page 2. I think we just want the total not the names.