

Council Minutes
September 10, 2025

Present: Moderator Bob Brandemuehl, Moderator-Elect Kay Rowntree, Treasurer Jean Brocker, Secretary Joanne Himebauch, Pastor Mark Hensley, Karla Pennington, Jamie Pennington, Rae-Ellen Preuss, Sue Roberts

Absent: Janine Coley

Opening Prayer: Bob

Devotional Time - Pastor Mark. We, at FCC, are not fragile. We are a movement, a stronghold. We are a welcome mat to the lost and hurt.

Approval of Meeting Minutes. Rae-Ellen moved and Karla seconded to approve the August 13th minutes. Motion carried.

November Business meeting - We chose Sunday, November 9.

We will hold Giving Sunday, with a church picnic (potluck) on Sunday, October 19. The Council will provide Coffee hour to celebrate the church's 168th birthday on October 12 with cake, crackers, cheese, etc. We need to have the meeting packets for members out on the Communications table in the Narthex by October 26.

Parsonage sale pros & cons. Kay wrote an article for submission to the congregation in the What's Happening. She sent it to us late last night. Mark tweaked it and read it at the Council meeting. Comments from the Congregation (in writing) are due by September 21. We also discussed the Insurance issue of holding onto the Parsonage. There are reasons that an Insurance company would deny claims including it being an empty building - fire, vandalism.

SOP - Facebook. We decided that the SOP we have about Websites & Social Media is sufficient at this time.

Replacing AC units in the sanctuary. Rae-Ellen contacted Nick Beilfuss to get quotes for one or both AC units to be replaced in the sanctuary. It would cost \$7,547 to replace one unit. The cost would be \$15,010 for 2 units. One unit is really bad and the other one will soon be bad. There is \$24,060 left in the Capital Improvements fund.

Parking Lot Seal Coating. Merit provided a quote of \$5,904 which includes painting the parking spaces lines. There would be no warranty if coated after September due to the temperatures being too cold to keep the seal. If the proposal is approved in 2025, they will honor the quote, even if they wait until next spring. Black Earth Pavement provided us with a quote of \$7,790, and we would need to get rid of the weeds ourselves. Jean moved and Sue seconded to approve one new air conditioner and to have Merit do the asphalt sealing. Motion carried.

Sanctuary Sound System. For the most part, it has been working well. This past Sunday we had some crackling. But usually, it has been good. We need a master electrician to look at the transformer box down next to the breakers in the boiler room. It was squealing and buzzing. Once the sanctuary sound was off, it stopped buzzing.

Downstairs flooring replacement. We agreed to discuss this next year.

What to do with the \$100,000 gift. The committee of Janine, Jamie, and Jean will be meeting on September 17th. The \$100,000 is currently in a CD.

Nominating Committee. Janine, Rae-Ellen, and Terry. They will be getting together next week to discuss the next slate of officers.

Missions Committee. We planned through next spring.

Custodian update. Merit Venema is cleaning temporarily. There are 5 people who have applied due to putting up a FB ad in different Mukwonago sites. Mark told them that we are paying \$18 per hour. *Note: Since our meeting, Mark interviewed a total of 7 people. Cassandra Jordan has been hired as our new custodian. This was announced in church on Sunday, September 21st.*

Long-Range Planning Committee. Do we need to resurrect it? We are having a difficult time filling Council positions. So how can we fill another committee? Perhaps we should just let it go at least for the time being.

Anything from the floor. Pastor Mark brought up the topic of how do we decide who gets to spend funds? He feels that the Memorial process seems too clunky right now. The money is just sitting in an account. Perhaps we shouldn't have to call families anymore to ask permission of the family to use the funds. Mark has been trying to get liquid candlewax candles for the altar table. There is \$17,333 in the Memorials fund, with \$10,000 available currently. The cost of the candles would be between \$2400-\$2500.

Joanne found the Memorial SOP from April 2018 in her SOP notes on her computer. She will include it with these minutes so that we can look at the current process and consider how we could streamline using the funds in the future.

Jamie made the suggestion that perhaps we should direct the Memorial Committee to come with a plan to use the funds so that families who donated the money could be honored. The Memorial Committee includes Janine Coley, Bev Webber, and Claire Albrecht. Kay suggested that SOPs are good for financial reasons, but many SOPs do not serve a purpose. We decided to table the discussion of SOPs until next month.

Jean moved and Rae-Ellen seconded to purchase the candles from our Reserve fund spending up to \$2500 and Mark suggested that we call it a birthday gift to the church. Motion carried.

Rae-Ellen mentioned that we received some more violation notices from the Fire Department. One of those was because the smoke detector at the top of the tall stairwell kept beeping, no matter if new batteries were installed or not. So.... it was taken down. David Beilfuss, Jr. has been contacted that we have 30 days to fix the problem. We also received a violation for having tables under the stairwell. Mark, Bob, and Jamie offered to put the old tables out on the lawn for Maxwell St. Days with a sign that they are free for the taking.

We closed in prayer and adjourned the meeting, with our **next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 8 at 6:30 PM.**

Sincerely submitted,
Joanne Himebauch
Council Secretary