

July 8, 2026 Council Minutes

Present: Moderator KayRowntree, Moderator -Elect Ryan Venema, Treasurer Jean Bocker, Secretary Joanne Himebauch, Pastor Mark Hensley, Brad Charles, Jamie Pennington, Karla Pennington, Rae-Ellen Preuss, Jennifer Schmitz

Call to order by Moderator Kay Rowntree at 6:32

Jamie volunteered to open us in prayer.

Devotional time by Pastor Mark. Luke 17: 20-21. The Kingdom of God is here. It is not about position and power. It begins in our heart. What kind of hearts are we bringing to the meeting? Are they hearts surrendered to God and willing to listen?

Jamie moved and Brad seconded to approve the minutes from the June 10th meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer report by Jean Bocker. Brad asked what caused maintenance to be over budget? Jean and Rae-Ellen couldn't remember exactly, but Jean will send it out. Was it from the Parsonage (Jamie asked)? No, that money came from Reserves. Maybe it was extra maintenance for the elevator. There were also issues in the downstairs bathroom. They were unexpected repairs. Jean mentioned that we are over-budget on custodian hours, but we are really pleased with the work she is doing. Everything looks so clean. Jean asked Mark to hand over the TriSkill checks. TriSkill had given the whole year of checks to him, but he kept forgetting to give them month by month, so he will just hand over all of them now.

Finance director's report by Jamie Pennington. Maxwell Street Days parking has plenty of spots open on Saturday in July. We are glad that we have the Scouts do Sundays. Jamie thinks the Scouts did about \$1200 on Sunday. We are still waiting on the ½ of their take from Sunday. We need to talk to the Scouts about saving spots for church members.

Long-Range planning has met and created a priority list of projects. They will meet again on August 3rd.

Giving Sunday will take place on three Sundays - September 6, 13, and 20th, leading up to the dinner will be the 20th with a pot luck. The new church recipe book will be handed out at that time. It was suggested that we should bring potluck items from the cookbook!

Investment of parsonage proceeds. Jim Filicetti has been gone, so there is nothing to report yet. Kay will sign Jim's contract. He wants a downpayment of \$250.

What should we do with the proceeds from the parsonage sale? Jennifer proposes 5% coming back to us, rather than 4%. If it keeps growing, we should spend the interest. We will invest the principal. It depends on how well the fund does. The 4% was a conservative number. We can look at how it is doing every year.... Or even every quarter. We need to spend the interest, but it will vary from year to year. We are a year away from knowing any of this. Jamie feels that first we should reimburse ourselves of the money we used to get the parsonage ready for sale. Everyone agreed.

We would get about \$18,000 after the first year, if we earn 5%. Jennifer would like to spend money on growing the church.

Parsonage sale update by Jennifer. Heidi from ReMax is working hard for us! The tax ID is arriving probably today. The listing goes live tomorrow - Thursday, June 9th. Open houses: Thursday, 4:30-6:30. Friday, 4- 6 pm, Saturday 9 - 11 am. Joanne will share the link with everyone tonight. Kay signed all the paperwork. Bob has worked really hard to get everything together for the sale. The group will meet on Sunday to go over any offers.

SOP Review. It is the moderator's job to keep up the SOPs. Kay is trying to organize them.

We looked at 1) Cash Handling Procedure and 2) Charge Cards and Credit Cards. Pastor Mark thinks that Jean & Jamie need to tell us how they do finances. Then we will write it down for an SOP. Kay asked what the process is for making it happen. Karla asked if we could start with a single category? We can look at all the SOPs that fit each category. Jean mentioned that the cash handling SOP is exactly what we do. Karla asked if we could look at a category next month. Pastor Mark offered to organize them by category, but he won't get to it until September. We will start with Finance and Finance Safety. Jean & Jamie will send Mark what they think is absolutely needed.

Jennifer mentioned that the SOP book already has the SOPs in categories.

Anything else? Why do we not keep the What's Happening on our website? It basically boiled down to privacy concerns. Phone numbers of Council members could be taken off and then we could add the weekly newsletter on our website, which would help show the public what good things go on at FCC. Pastor Mark will work with Judi to create a plan so that we can post the What's Happening to the FCC website. We will keep about 3 weeks worth up at a time.

Rae-Ellen mentioned that we should all take a look at the new bell tower base to see how well it turned out.

Brad mentioned that we plan to designate Missions funds to aid in helping after the Venezuela earthquakes.

Next meeting: August 5, 2026 at 6:30 PM.

Jean moved and Jennifer seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.

Closing prayer: Pastor Mark.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Himebauch

Council secretary

July 2026 Directors' Reports

Congregational Care - Jennifer Schmitz

1. Four women from The Women's Agape Group had a good time spreading God's Love in the Father's Day Parade! Lynch Ford donated a Mustang convertible, and we wore our fancy hats. We put Bible verses about LOVE on the car and tossed rubber duckies, rubber bracelets, and tiny booster buttons that said, "Jesus Loves You". We won 3rd prize in the church category!
We are now working on the cookbook that will be distributed on Giving Sunday.
Jean Bocker, Leader

2. Fellowship: Joanne has shared our church picnic will be July 26th after church.

3. No reports this month for funerals, weddings, archives, hospitality/welcome, and visitation.

Church Maintenance & Repairs – Jean Bocker

Regarding the Church Maintenance and Repairs budget overage we talked about last night, this is what I found on the Detailed Report from Judi. I only considered expenses over \$1000. (The budget limit for that line is \$7000.)

February:

Johnson Controls Installed new thermostat and replaced gas valve for furnace @ \$4337
Johnson Controls Quoted Repairs (not detailed on invoice) 1,972.69

April:

Robert Schmidt - Snowplowing for 2025/2026 Season 2,655.00 This should have been debited from the Grounds Maintenance line. I will ask Judi to switch that out.

June:

Johnson Controls Semi-Annual Maintenance 2,367.00

Rae-Ellen's response to Jean's research:

The \$1972.69 was for the repair of the sanctuary furnace that was damaged by the lightning strike. It should not have come out of the maintenance budget either. It should have been covered by insurance money. The \$4337 was also from lightning damage. I believe this part covered the furnace in the TriSkill area downstairs. Neither of these were maintenance issues, but insurance reimbursement. This would probably explain the \$7000 overage.

We had damage to 2 of the 4 units that are auxiliary units that heat and cool our building. This needs to be changed by Judi as well. I have documentation from the church insurance company about these 2 amounts. We were paid by the insurance company for these repairs.

Missions & Growth– Brad Charles

The Hope Center has asked us to donate back packs for their homeless patrons. Many of the men use them to carry their possessions. We will continue this effort through the summer along with our household appliance drive for the Center.

In an effort to help with relief effort in Venezuela, we will be donating \$250 to the Salvation Army. We did some significant research on the organizations that offer assistance there and we decided the Salvation Army was the most politically neutral one.

Janine asked us to have a Team meeting 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 growth of our church, Mark and I will be recording our podcasts on the existential questions of the day in the coming weeks. I am working on the opening script and the outlines of what we will cover together.

Treasurer's Report – Jean Bocker

This is a mid-year summary:

1. Offerings are ahead at mid-year by \$7141. Building Use income is on track.
2. Basic Costs will probably run over budget by EOY because Church Maintenance and Repair line is already \$6940 over budget, and we had almost \$1000 in utilities costs for the parsonage.
3. Ministry Costs are on track.
4. Custodian Wage is \$517.92 over budget already at mid-year. But, the Office Secretary Wage is less than half what it should be by now. Total Staff Costs are currently \$41,726, but should be more like \$43,171. So, I think we will be okay.
5. Bottom line, we are back in the red again by over \$5000. This condition will probably last until year end. However, Judi has not transferred \$4709 yet from the 02 account as planned (to balance the budget). She will when we need to.
6. The 02 Account is still doing well. The Memorial CD came due last month and we cashed it in. This enabled the Memorial Committee to purchase the carillon for \$8142. There is still \$10,000 in the Memorial Fund.
7. The Reserve Fund still has \$172,512 which includes the People's Church gift. All the insurance claim payments were deposited in the Reserve Fund. All the repairs from the lightning strike were paid from the Reserve Fund and this is what is left.