

July 9, 2025 Council Minutes

Present: Treasurer Jean Bocker, Secretary Joanne Himebauch, Pastor Mark Hensley, Janine Coley, Jamie Pennington, Karla Pennington, Rae-Ellen Preuss
Absent: Bob Brandemuehl, Sue Roberts

Call to Order by Kay Rowntree & Opening Prayer by Jamie Pennington

Devotional Time: Pastor Mark. Let us not grow weary of doing good. Story of the Chinese Bamboo tree. Don't be tempted to give up! Faith will break through in God's time!

Approval of June 11, 2025 Council Minutes. Jamie moved and Jean seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

New Business:

Planning for Church Growth - Pastor Mark. We need: more social media, more support groups, discipleship programs, etc. We need to define who we would like to target. Perhaps we could do an Invite a friend social event. We discussed many ideas from a few meetings ago. Stephens Ministry Program (get a price? - how can we support one another?), Alpha program (some had a bad experience with this.). Google reviews might help bump up our FB & Instagram. Create a booklet of Ministry Teams with a brief description. Rally Sunday or a Time & Talents fair? Jamie suggested calling it a Time, Talent, Treasure event (on Consecration Sunday.)

Sadly, we received a resignation letter from Chris & Carol Gedde. We are sorry that they decided to leave our congregation, but we will leave the door open.

Council Letter of Support for Jamie Pennington for the Lay Ministry Program- Jamie has decided to pursue the Lay Ministry Training sponsored by the NACCC. Yay, Jamie!) He needs a letter of support from the Council. There are scholarships available that the congregation support 50-50. Eastern Star also helps support this program. Rae-Ellen moved and Jean seconded to support his endeavor in the program. Joanne will type up an electronic letter, using Mark's model letter and sign it.

Becoming a member of FCC Document Approval - postpone & revisit the discussion of this. Janine & Mark need to work a bit more on this.

Parsonage - Pros & Cons. We need to make a decision by the October Council meeting so that we can present it to the congregation at the November meeting. Kay will write a blurb to the congregation to let them know that we are considering the pros & cons of a sale.

School Roof update - Jean called Badgerland to get an update. The weather has set them back, but they are hoping to get to us by mid-August.

Parking Lot Sealcoating - Rae-Ellen. (Tabled until the roof is done.) (We may need to postpone this until spring).

Sanctuary Sound System - Pastor Mark worked for 4 hours on this today. He created a Power Point & Zoom list to follow for a setup checklist. Thank you, Mark!

Nominating Committee - We need to replace Beth Petersen as Missions Director on Council. Currently, Rae-Ellen has been working on this alone, since she has not heard back from Terry Buchmann about meeting and Linda Garasimowicz left the church. Her position was a one-year position. Janine volunteered to help out on Nominating for the remaining 3 months of Linda's term. We talked about who is currently on the Missions Committee. Right now, it is Karen Jones & Milt Haeger. Several of us on Council expressed interest in being a part of Missions, if it was a committee that does not meet every month.

What is the Council guidance for the Missions Committee? We don't have to continue what we used to do on Missions. We need to have oversight. Council members need to come up with a Vision & Guidance for Missions (goals) next month. We need to keep our WHY statement at the forefront of our thoughts and discussion. The Missions Director will OVERSEE Missions, but doesn't necessarily need to be ON the Missions Committee.

Long Range Planning Committee. Delayed.

Anything from the floor:

The Booklet of Ministry Teams has been updated by Janine.

Old Business:

Directors' Reports - anything to add?

Rae-Ellen - Property & grounds. We passed the State Elevator inspection!

We need to update our smoke detectors/ carbon monoxide detectors. They have been malfunctioning. David Beilfuss will look at them and replace them. We will install the carbon monoxide detectors separately. He will also work on the bathroom lights.

Kay talked about disbanding the Personnel Committee, and putting it under Council's purview. Jean reminded us about the Pastor Parish Relations Committee, which had been useful in reviewing the Pastor's performance. Joanne mentioned that she dialogues regularly with Marni, for example.

Next Council Meeting: August 13, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Closing Prayer & Adjournment - Jean moved and Janine seconded to adjourn the meeting.
Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Himebauch
Council Secretary

Directors' Reports, July 2025

Christian Education - Sue Roberts

Nothing to report.

Congregational Care - Janine Coley

Nothing to report.

Missions - no current Director.

Nothing to report.

Property & Grounds - Rae-Ellen Preuss

I received a text from Ashley Clark. Her dryer had also quit working. So they have purchased a new washer and dryer from Home Depot. They no longer want the washer from the parsonage.

We will have a state inspection of the elevator. This is a mandatory inspection that is done routinely. This has nothing to do with the needed maintenance that we are considering.

David Beilfuss has not had a chance to install new light fixtures in the bathrooms. But it is still going to be done.

We had a smoke alarm going off last Sunday. Jamie tried new batteries, but nothing worked. These are very old alarms (probably from the 1980s) They are also carbon monoxide detectors.

I am having David Beilfuss also check into the replacement of them. I believe there are 3 alarms that should be upgraded.