

March 7, 2025 Council Minutes

Present: Moderator Bob Brandemuehl, Moderator-elect Kay Rowntree, Treasurer Jean Broucker, Secretary Joanne Himebauch, Pastor Mark Hensley, Janine Coley, Karla Pennington, Jamie Pennington, Beth Petersen, Rae-Ellen Preuss, Sue Roberts

Call to Order - Bob Brandemuehl

Opening Prayer - Jamie Pennington

Devotional Time - Pastor Mark. Pastor Mark talked about Moses and the Burning Bush found in Exodus. Moses was standing on Holy Ground. We, too, are on Holy Ground.

Approval of February 12 Minutes - Jean moved and Beth seconded to approve the minutes with a slight change of wording under the **Approval of the January 8th Council Minutes** discussion. Motion carried.

New Business:

Planning for Church Growth - Pastor Mark. Mark gave us a packet to look through. We need to think about our Why statement: We exist to _____ so that _____. We need everyone focused to move in the same direction. We don't need to change everything, but we need to sync everything.

We spent lots of time discussing Easter opportunities and ideas to promote church growth. Council members seemed very excited! We made a plan for immediate use. Joanne will check with the Village Hall about placing Easter Eggs with a message around public areas of Mukwonago. She will also hold a FaceBook sharing session with Karla after church for those who need to learn how to share from the FCC FaceBook page so we can expand our reach. Pastor Mark will look into making general FCC business cards that we can hand out and creating yard signs to place in members' yards. Several of us volunteered to create a message for FB inviting people to church on Easter. We will make sure to take photos and videos to share about taking Easter baskets to the Mukwonago Food Pantry.

Parsonage - Rae-Ellen. The Fair market value of the parsonage is \$350,000. Jean suggests giving the congregation a recommendation in the future. Kay wonders if this is what we want to do. Janine thinks we need to think about the positives and negatives. Beth suggested that we need to do the pros and cons and ideas for use- write a list for the next month. Karla has really good memories of the parsonage. Mark wouldn't want to live close. Could a future Youth pastor live there? Should we sell it to fund a new church roof? TriSkill might want to move there? Short-term housing for mothers with new babies? **Could everyone send their list (pros & cons and use ideas) to Joanne before the next meeting? Then she will compile the suggestions / lists.**

Second bid on basement flooring - The Kern's bid was between \$29,000 - 33,000.

Beth & Rae-Ellen also visited Sheppard's in Mukwonago. Rae-Ellen & Beth picked a product, then they made a bid. The bid includes Koeffler Hall, the stairway area between classrooms, restrooms, and boiler room, the back hallway & stairs, and the butler area by the kitchen. They determined the back hallway & stairs to be an industrial (high traffic) area. They would use different products for the other 3 areas (less industrial). Their bid was \$31,728.

Both are comparable bids. Andy Shepard seemed more observant about details, but otherwise both places were easy to work with. Beth preferred Shepard's. This would happen in May at the earliest. We currently have about \$58,000 in the Capital Gains fund and \$62,000 in the Reserve fund. Beth also mentioned that we will need to make sure that chairs have plastic tips on the feet of the chairs to protect the new flooring, if we get it.

School Wing Roof - The membrane was torn when they installed it and they added stones to keep the membrane down. It leaks because the seams tear and come apart, especially on the North side of the building. Options: 1. Keep patching. 2. Replace the membrane. Bob remembers paying about \$65,000. It would probably cost over \$100,000 now. Jean found something from Badgerland Commercial Roofing who did some repairs in 2001 and 2004 to repair around the chimney and one other location and also insulate the roof to fix the heating bills. Rae-Ellen talked about metal roofs installed by Amish, they might do it for half price for a church

Jamie mentioned that we need to figure out our most important need. Pastor Mark says that as an insurance agent, our roof should be our priority. Jean mentioned 3 companies - Badgerland, SRS, and Alois. Beth mentioned that we need to look at their reviews, too. Another suggestion was to look at commercial flat roofers. Jean suggested a committee. Jean, Bob, and Kay volunteered to serve on the committee.

Long-Range Planning - Is Greg Garasimowicz the chair? Bob will contact him to see if he will continue and convene a meeting soon. Jamie P. & Sue R. volunteered to join the Long-Range Planning committee. They look at facility needs for the church & parsonage, and prioritize those needs. And they make recommendations.

Office Management - It is still functioning well.

Pastor Mark Vicinage installation - The Pastoral Search committee continues to plan.

Other business:

Sue & Pastor Mark are looking into adding a sensory area in the back of the sanctuary for use by TriSkill and other families so that we can invite them to church and make it comfortable. They are asking TriSkill for recommendations.

Church Survey - we can look at it next month.

Kay Rowntree will run the Friday, April 11th meeting in Bob's absence. We will meet again at Sol de Mexico at 5 PM for a fish fry / taco bar ahead of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Himebauch
Council Secretary