

FCC Council Meeting Agenda  
Wednesday, January 8, 2025  
6:30 PM

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

**Opening Prayer-** Janine.

**Devotional Time** - Pastor Mark - Psalm 145. Martin Luther King's last sermon.

**Look at the Church Council / Directors / Ministries sheet** - update and return it to Mark

**Planning for Church Growth** - Pastor Mark. We were each given a packet to study and a book to read. We need to rework our Mission Statement. Next time: we'll talk about the WHY!

**Parsonage** - Rae-Ellen. What are we going to do with the parsonage? Can we update the parsonage? A year ago, Rae-Ellen & a group looked at what needs fixing there. We can start to tackle ways to fix it up - either for ourselves.... Or for sale. We currently have \$217 in Menard \$\$ (rebates). Keeping or selling the parsonage would need to be a congregational decision. We would need a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote to sell the building. Each lot has its own water main on our 3 lots. Church and Parsonage are currently hooked together, but could be separated in order to sell the parsonage. Why is the parsonage electric bill so high? We do have some heat on. Janine thinks March is too early to bring the idea of selling the parsonage to the congregation. Jamie's thoughts: 1) rent the parsonage to TriSkill, 2) there may be a youth pastor who could live there with free room and board, but no salary. 3) Turn it into transitional housing - people in need of shelter - not rent, but fee for transitional housing. Maybe the Hope Center could run it.

How can we make the parsonage part of our mission as a church? We could bring up the issue of what to do at the March meeting. Besides the Menards money, Rae-Ellen still has money in the \$20,000 granted to her to work with projects. Jean brought up the roof leaks on the church building. We really need to have the roof looked at. The Long-Range Planning Committee really needs to meet to discuss the needs of the church as far as repairs. Jean suggested an ad hoc committee to deal with just one issue. Mark suggested that we need to figure out our WHY first. Karla suggested that we need to pray about where God is leading us to go!!??? Bob then suggested that we should find out the value of the parsonage. Beth is concerned about the driveway. Rae-Ellen got an estimate for the driveway about a year ago for \$20,000. Mark knows a friend at the Y who is a realtor. Mark will ask her if we can get it appraised.

**New Organ Midi System** -

Office Management - Jean. Things are going pretty well, really. There were a few bumps in the road. Mark is finding a hard time finding a rhythm with Judi's work hours, but they will continue to work on it. Supplies are going well. We can email Judi, but cc Mark on it.

**Vicinage Council** -Jamie. We had previously set our Vicinage Council and Installation service for March 29th. Who will be the moderator for the Vicinage? Marty Hall is one name, but he is not available on March 29. However, he would be available March 8th or April 5th. Rae-Ellen suggested pushing it to April 5th. It gives us extra time to plan. **We decided to change the date to April 5th.** (Side note: Joanne's birthday is April 5. Pastor Mark's birthday is April 4th. Should we serve birthday cake in honor of Pastor Mark?) Rae-Ellen asked for a food budget (continental breakfast, luncheon, and afternoon snacks). The organizing committee is made up of Jamie, Kay, and Rae-Ellen. Kay graciously offered to provide afternoon treats. The committee will meet to decide a menu. Jean suggested an amount not to exceed \$1000. Sue mentioned a Vicinage Council she attended where they served Cousins, and she liked that. Kay thinks that the committee should meet to decide. Rae-Ellen moved and Karla seconded to request up to \$500 to come from the reserve fund. Motion carried. Mark mentioned that he discussed the Vicinage procedure with Gerry Krupp from the NA.

**Missions Discussions** - Beth. Beth apologized for inviting several people who have no longer been attending church to the last Missions meeting. Beth would like to propose making Missions a committee instead of a Ministry Team so that there are term limits. Janine mentioned that the Nominating committee would have to find members, which might be a challenge. Also, the church constitution would need to be changed. Jean wondered if people would have passion and ownership if the Missions Team becomes a committee. Pastor Mark thinks if we make it a committee instead of a Ministry team, then we won't have people with an "agenda" who are on the "team." A committee would enable conversation with the Council.

Kay suggested a committee appointed by Council rather than the Nominating Committee. Beth feels that there would be more accountability with a committee rather than a Team.

Janine mentioned that we need to look at our Why. We need to be inclusive rather than exclusive. We need to look at our membership next month, but maybe we shouldn't put anyone on an inactive list.

Beth moved and Kay seconded to make Missions a Council-appointed committee of three or more members. Motion carried. Beth will bring forth 3 names. Janine and Beth will work on an SOP of this new Council-appointed committee.

March Business Meeting - March 2nd. Reports due to Judi by Feb. 7. Directors need to contact their Ministry leads to write the reports.

Janine moved and Beth seconded to approve the Council minutes from December. Motion carried.

Pastor Mark asked about the Ecumenical Lenten Services. He had been approached by the new pastor at the Rochester UCC about them, but he needed to understand how these services worked. Kay thought that they both need to get in touch with Stanton \_\_\_\_\_ of the Burlington

Methodist / English Settlement Church, since he has been involved the longest of all the ministers.

Terry Buchmann had sent Pastor Mark a suggestion that we need some hearing devices for certain people who can't hear during the service. Pastor Mark suggested a system for \$1000 between \$2,500. Joanne suggested that the Memorial committee look into a system.

Janine asked about the Fair Share contribution. The suggested offering is \$13 per person. Joanne will send Judi an email asking to get envelopes prepared. Mark & Joanne will staple the envelopes to the bulletins for several weeks. Joanne will also write an article for the What's Happening and Pastor Mark will mention it from the pulpit.

The Audit committee will meet with Judi on Tuesday, January 14th at 9 AM.

The next meeting will be on February 12 in keeping with holding Council meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month..

In March and April, due to the Lenten Services, we need to move our meeting time to something other than Wednesday.

Joanne will check with Sol de Mexico on Friday, March 7th for a fish fry in their back room with the meeting to follow. Families invited.

We will use the same tentative plan for Friday, April 11th .

Pastor Mark closed us in prayer. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joanne Himebauch  
Council Secretary