

February 12, 2025 Council Minutes

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

Bob Brandemuehl called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm. We held this meeting via **Zoom** because of the Winter Storm Warning. Special thanks to Janine Coley for setting up the Zoom call.

Opening Prayer: Jean

Devotions: Pastor Mark, after a difficult week, talked about Mathew 6:34. Do not worry! There are 86,400 seconds each day. Once the day is over and the next day arrives, we cannot get that time back. Live in the present moment! Don't worry about tomorrow... or yesterday.

We looked at and **set the agenda for the March 2nd Business Meeting**. Kay asked who would announce the meeting from the pulpit. Mark agreed to do it again. He announced it last week already, as well. Bob took notes on the agenda and will email it to Judi and to each of us.

Approval of January 8th Council minutes. Bob pointed out the January 8th minutes title should say Minutes, not Agenda. Beth mentioned that missing from the minutes was her announcement that she was no longer going to work on the Cross Committee. We need to form a new committee to work on getting a cross on the building or the church property. Beth has some materials, but no longer wishes to work on this. We will add the request for a new committee to the Business meeting agenda on March 2nd. **It was pointed out** that we must go before the Village Board to get approval of whatever cross we decide. There is currently \$4184 in account. Jean suggested the Agape group might want to take this over. Janine moved and Jean seconded to approve the January Council minutes with the additions and corrections. Motion carried.

Church Growth. Pastor Mark didn't want to discuss Church growth too much tonight. He wants to wait until we meet in person. He did talk about adding targeting programming to get out into the community. Terry B. agreed to make some social media advertisements for our church. Church membership overall is declining., not just at FCC And when churches DO grow, they are taking members away from other churches, not finding unchurched people. We need to focus on reaching out to those who are tired of and wounded by organized religion. Jean suggested that it will take a long time to discuss this just at Council meetings. She suggested a retreat. Pastor Mark suggested focusing on the first 4 chapters of the book we were given. But we also need to realize that this book was written for businesses, not churches. Yet it can be valuable in helping us find our focal point as a church. We need to find our WHY - our focal point.

Price quote on parsonage: Mark talked with his realtor friend from the Y. She only saw the parsonage from the outside, but she thought we could easily get \$275,000 - 300,000. Mark thinks we could get around \$350,000 easily. Rae-Ellen agreed to walk through the parsonage with Mark's realtor friend. Bob suggested that the driveway needed replacing. Rae-Ellen thought that replacing the driveway would cost at the top end of \$20,000.

Remote Office Manager: Jean and Mark both think that Judi working remotely as office manager is going well. Janine asked about mailing things out. Judi does that remotely. We are doing automatic deposit with all the employees. Beth reminded us all to thank Jean for her extra work. Thanks, Jean!

Visinage Council update: The committee of Jamie, Kay, Zach, and Rae-Ellen have a plan. Invitations have been sent to WCA churches. We have received a couple of RSVPs. Plans are pretty set.

During their meeting a question came up. What should they do with the info from the Pastoral **Search committee survey**? We could release a redacted survey to the Council without comments. Maybe to the congregation at a future date? Comments should be left out, except for what Pastor Mark sees. Kay added that Judi has the tabulated numbers. It would be easy to take the results and make them anonymous, like pie charts (without comments.) Jamie asked if we should release the survey to Pastor Mark (with comments). We all agreed to that. Seeing this info could be useful in helping us form our WHY. Kay offered to work with Judi to make it into a usable format by the next Council meeting.

Missions discussion. Janine & Beth will work on the SOP. There is a Missions meeting next week. Beth plans to invite 2 former church attendees. They are both still members.

Fair Share is due to the NACCC by March 15. As far as FCC collection, Jean suggested a cut-off date of February 23. People have been great about turning them in. We have about \$400 so far.

Church audit: Gary Himebauch and Chris Gedde met with Judi on Tuesday, January 14. The Books were found to be in order. Gary wrote the report for the business meeting.

Hearing aids - The Memorials Committee is looking into this.

Property and Grounds update: Rae-Ellen: Our custodian has been doing a good job, but is not always very thorough. So Rae-Ellen is calling for an all-church cleanup for the inside of the church on Saturday, March 29th. This will be before we host the Vicinage Council the following weekend.

Rae-Ellen also recommends fixing the **flooring** in the Fellowship Hall. It is an asbestos flooring, which is getting old and worn. If we seal-coat it and cover it up, we can get around having the huge cost of lifting it up the asbestos tiles. The building is used by lots of groups, including

TriSkill Monday through Friday. Fixing the floor has been on the Long-Range planning list for many years. Rae-Ellen still has about \$8,000 left of the \$20,000 she was given for this project. She had Kerns come in to look. They gave an estimate for the hallway, Koeffler Hall, Kitchen and Butler area, back hallway and stairs and landings. Price includes skim coating (sealing asbestos), new Cove (?), transition pieces between doorways, and covering with new tiles, including stair treads for the back hallway. The estimate was \$29,000 - 33,000. This would not include the backpack room, choir room, and small dining room. We members would help empty the rooms. Jamie suggested that we get a second bid since we are spending over \$5,000. Joanne suggested asking Sheperd's, who just opened a new shop in Mukwonago.

Kay wondered if the roof is a more important need at this time than the floor in Koeffler Hall. We are beyond the life expectancy of the roof. The seams are separating. That's where the leaks are coming from. Jean thinks that we need to get a couple of professional roofers to give us estimates on the roof. Bob had received a quote of \$253,000 for a new gabled roof a few years ago. Sue wondered if we are saving to get a new gabled roof. No, we have not been. It was suggested that we get estimates for resealing the roof vs. getting a new roof. Then we can have a better idea of what to do next. Kay pointed out that many buildings have good, flat roofs. Rae-Ellen would like to delegate the roofing estimates to Long-Range Planning

Rae-Ellen will contact Sheperd's and report back. Sue says that she will help if needed to meet people up at church. Bob will contact Long-Range planning to investigate a new seal for the roof and a new roof (gabled or not).

At our next two meetings, Fridays March 7th and April 11, we will be enjoying a fish fry / taco bar buffet at Sol de Mexico for \$13 per person, plus the extra cost of beverages. We will dine at 5 PM in the back room of Sol de Mexico and then drive over to church for our meeting. We are doing this because of Lenten Services being on Wednesdays during March and April during our normally scheduled time.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Himebauch
Council Secretary