

CMCL Council Meeting Minutes 7:30 PM Grant Street Building August 25th 2025

Present: Mike Sharp (chair), Drew Brubaker, Craig Clearwater (arrived at 8:45), John King, Laurel Martin, Beth Oberholtzer, Marlene Reiff, David Stallings, Deb Van Pelt, Susan Gascho-Cooke (pastor)

1. **Opening - Marlene Opening** — reading from 75th anniversary MCC book; POV wishes and dreams from folks around the world
 - the context of what folks desire when they've lived in war zones etc is eye-opening; *A Dry Roof and a Cow*
 - Drew's last meeting — served on Congregational Council for 6 years
1. **Financial Reports — Larry Groff** (joining remotely)
 - Offerings have been strong; highest giving year to date so far
 - Most bills are in — underspent in most categories; Facilities has AC bill coming in
 - **Motion to accept:** Marlene Reiff — **Second:** John King — **vote: unanimously accepted**
1. **Pastoral Search Committee (report item)** (Janet Lind, Carol Eby-Good, Julia Schrock Rosenfeld, Luke Good join meeting at 7:45)
 - We have had minimal applicants for our Administrative Pastor opening
 - In June's Council meeting Janet Lind suggested Council discern if the administrative pastor position should be re-casted with a new job description
 - SRC has had some similar conversations and individuals from both committees joined the Council meeting for a brainstorm type conversation
 - **Motion to** "encourage Staff Relations Committee and the Pastoral Search Committee to separate the administrative and pastoral portions of the .75 FTE Administrative Pastoral Position" by Drew Brubaker — **Second:** Beth Oberholtzer — **vote: unanimously accepted**
 - **Motion to** "approve Staff Relations Committee to hire an interim Youth Pastor/Director position" by Laurel Martin : Marlene Reiff — **Second:** Deb Van Pelt — **vote: unanimously accepted**
1. **August 17th Congregational Meeting (report item)**
 - All agenda items passed unanimously (Budget, Leadership slate, and Welcome/Safety committee) CMCL calendar was a report item
1. **Staff Relations Committee (action item)**
 - Staff Reports accepted (**motion to accept:** Deb Van Pelt, **second:** John King — **unanimously approved**)
 - Council approved by email an exception to the Leave of Absence Policy for a current employee. Judy is working to coordinate coverage in that employee's absence
1. **New Council Members**

- Drew's term ends in September – Beth, Deb, David, and Mike's terms end in September 2026, Craig's term ends in 2027, and Laurel, John, and Marlene are extending their terms 3 years until 2028
- Council members can extend for an additional 3 year term (Laurel, Marlene, and John are willing to extend - Drew cannot extend)
- Council needs to find two more Council members
- Identify a vice-chair
- Identify a chair-elect for next year (chair-elect would then start a 3 year term as chair starting in 26-27)

1. **5 Year Goal Setting**

- In June's Council meeting, Ron Zook consulted with us regard goal setting. He suggested we keep goals concise, specific, and measurable as well as involve the congregation in the process
- Council will discuss goal-setting in October

1. **Next Meeting**

- We will look at moving Council meetings to a 2nd or 4th Tuesday monthly meeting. Mike Sharp will check with office administrator about their availability on a Tuesday.
- Mike Sharp will send out a new date possibilities.

1. **Adjourn**

- **Motion to adjourn:** Drew Brubaker; **Second:** Marlene Reiff; **unanimously approved**

Minutes: Susan Gascho-Cooke

August council meeting minutes unanimously approved by all via email 9/17/25