

Celebration Moment #4 Church Council

The Friedens Church Council is the executive body and board of directors of Friedens Church. Elected by the congregation, the Council is the policy-making body that transacts the business of the church, subject to the will of the congregation. The Council enacts bylaws for all operational procedures, including selecting and hiring pastors and other church staff.

1911 -- Friedens was governed by a nine-man Governing Council.

1964 -- When the present, larger church was constructed, the Church Council was expanded from nine to twelve men.

Do you see a pattern here? For 53 years, men were the only members on the Church Council. Well, all changed in 1972 with energetic campaigning by the women of Friedens, Wilma Brehob was the first woman elected to the Church Council.

1975 -- Helen Straubinger was the first woman to be president of Church Council. At that time, Barbara Luckey and Sandy Bailey were also Council members.

1980's -- The Church Council was restructured to make each Council member the head of a particular committee in the church.

2001-2005 -- Four women served as presidents of the Church Council—Carol Drew, Ellen Huddleston, Linda Hoffman, and Ellen Tuttle.

2010 -- Our Church Council was expanded from 12 to 14 people with the additions of Technology and Environmental positions.

2011 -- Friedens Church Council was expanded from 14 to 16 people-- almost twice the size of the original Governing Council. Currently, eight men and eight women serve on our Church Council, one in each of the following positions: president, vice-president, secretary, and the following ministries: buildings & grounds, Christian education, communications, environmental, equipping, fellowship & events, finance/ treasurer, membership, outreach, personnel, stewardship, technology, and worship & arts.

We are fortunate to be in the United Church of Christ denomination that permits autonomy for each congregation to govern themselves.

8:30 and 10:30 Services

At this time, I would like to ask those of you who have served over the years on our Church Council to stand so we may thank you for your years of service to our congregation.