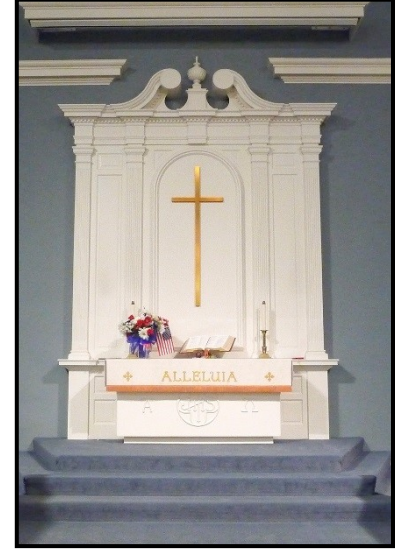


# Congregational Comments



Vol. 22 No. 10: October 2017

## Important Contacts in the Church

**Pastor:** Rev. Ryan Travis, 217-413-4272

Email: [pastorryan@firstchurchdecat.org](mailto:pastorryan@firstchurchdecat.org)

**Prayer Chain:** Bette Fankhauser, 877-6723

Email: [blfankhauser@comcast.com](mailto:blfankhauser@comcast.com)

**Playmates Preschool:** Interim Director: Alfreda Tribout

**Newsletter Editor:** Bill Huebner, 876-1446, cell 855-7677

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## Church Contact Information:

3465 N. MacArthur Rd.

Decatur, IL 62526

Telephone: 877-2216

Email: [firstchurchdecat.org@sbcglobal.net](mailto:firstchurchdecat.org@sbcglobal.net)

Website: [www.firstchurchdecat.org](http://www.firstchurchdecat.org)

Office Hours: Mon. –Thursday, 8:00-4:30

## Worship and Sunday School Times

9:00 am - Traditional Worship Service

9:15-10:15 am Sunday School

10:00 am - Fellowship Hour

11:00 am - Contemporary Worship  
Service

11:15-11:40 am Sunday School

Our Mission is to worship God,  
Welcome all who seek God, and  
Express our faith in our actions.

## Inside this issue:

A Note from Pastor Ryan	2	Congregational Meeting	6	Happenings	12
Events	3	Women's Fellowship	8	Birthdays & Anniversaries	13
Thank You	3	General Information	9	First Church Sunday Morning	14
Rally Day	4	Finance Notes	9	Calendar	15
Sunday Brunch	5	LOGOS	10-11	2017 Church Goals	16

# A Note from Pastor Ryan



***Pastor Ryan's hard drive crashed  
His articles will be back next month***

# EVENTS



## FIRST CHURCH FOODS RESOURCE BANK GROWING PROJECT

### ***Routed in Community Grounded in Faith***

Our 5-acre corn crop has almost reached maturity, which means grain fill will be at its maximum weight. From this point we need warm weather for moisture dry down of the grain. Harvest will begin in the next week or so. Harvest is delayed from previous years because of the cool weather in August. The warm weather forecast for the coming days will help.

We are not going to have a Harvest Celebration and Blessing Service in the field this year. The delayed harvest will not lend itself to the usual group activity. However, if anyone wants to ride during any of the harvest this fall, the combine buddy seat is available. Just give Bob a call at 412-3176 to make arrangements and he will direct you to the field where he is working.

*If you would like to make a donation to help pay the cost of planting this crop, donation envelopes can be found in the pews and may be placed in the offering basket or delivered to the church office. Please make your check payable to First Congregational UCC, and indicate that it is for our FRB growing project.*

Our Foods Resource Bank growing project will teach people in some of the poorest parts of the world to feed themselves and their families and give them the dignity and pride of doing so. Thank you for your help with this mission project.

# THANK YOU

## **Meals on Wheels**

Thank you to these volunteers who helped deliver Meals on Wheels the week of September 5 – September 8:

Sharon Burbes

Dave Carpenter

Tom and Paula Cordts

Peggy Druessel

Ev and Shirley Kuhn

Gerry and Peggy Ruff

Pastor Ryan Travis

Don Wenneker

Charles Zweck

Meals on Wheels is continually recruiting volunteers to help with the program. First Congregational UCC provides volunteers to deliver meals one week in May and another week in September. Volunteers work in teams of two and are provided excellent delivery instructions. Meals are picked up at Decatur Memorial Hospital between 10:00 and 10:30 AM and the delivery routes take about an hour to complete. If you think you may have time to help with this service, please mark "Meals on Wheels" on the time and talent sheet in this fall's stewardship packet. Sue Bunselmeyer will call on you to arrange a day for you to help with this mission. Thank you.



# Rally Day

Thank you to everyone who helped make our American Ninja Warrior themed Rally Day events a success! We had a great turnout with approx. 70 people for lunch, about 17 children completing our Obstacle course and many enjoying our Cake Walk, Bingo, Barbershop Quartet and Fruit Ninja presentation. Welcome back to all of our children to our fall Sunday school programming and to our chancel and bell choirs!



American Ninja Warrior Obstacle Course

# Sunday Brunch



**SUNDAY, OCT. 8<sup>th</sup>**

We will celebrate this year's stewardship campaign and your generosity with a brunch between services. The LOGOS Ministry is preparing a lovely meal for us.

We must have reservations for this meal. There will be a clipboard available before and after services where you can simply put the number attending next to your name. If you won't be attending, please put a zero so we know you've seen the invitation. If you don't find your name, please add it. We want you there! If you don't get to the clipboard, please call the church office with your reservation.

## Neighbors in Need

### NEIGHBORS IN NEED

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive during the month of October, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through [ucc.org/justice](http://ucc.org/justice), our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidasta, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Neighbors in Need helps make another world possible. It needs your support!



# Congregational Meeting Oct. 22

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
3465 N. MacArthur Rd  
Decatur, Illinois 62526

September 22, 2017

Members of First Congregational Church United Church of Christ:

A Special Called Congregational Meeting will be held in the sanctuary between services on Sunday, October 22, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of approving the changes to the Constitution and By-Laws, which will also replace the Organizational Manual.

As you may recall, in October 2016 the congregation approved the following actions, during the one-year implementation of our new structure:

1. Suspend the Organizational Manual
2. The current President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer remain in their positions for 2017
3. Set aside the following verbiage in the Constitution and By-Laws
  - a. All references in both documents to *Church Council* shall be understood to now be *Council of Ministry Teams*.
  - b. CONSTITUTION – ARTICLE VI. – OFFICERS – references to terms for the president, vice-president and secretary are "set aside" by the previous action
  - c. CONSTITUTION – ARTICLE VIII. – CHURCH COUNCIL – this is now understood to be COUNCIL OF MINISTRY TEAMS
  - d. BY-LAWS - ARTICLE I. – ORGANIZATIONAL MANUAL – this is now suspended for 2017.

The Administration Team and the Council of Ministry Teams have been working very hard during 2017, evaluating and making adjustments, and rewriting the documents to support the new structure. The Administration Team approved the proposal and moved it on to the Council of Ministry Teams, who unanimously approved it at its September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting and is recommending approval by the congregation.

We have also scheduled two brief "discussion sessions" for anyone who has questions about the recommendation. These sessions will take place in the sanctuary on Monday, October 9 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Please plan on attending and participating in this important meeting of the congregation and attend a "discussion session" if you have questions.

In Christ's Spirit,

Marsha Mower

Gary Baker

Marsha Mower, President

Gary Baker, Vice-President

THIS NOTICE IS CONSTITUTIONALLY REQUIRED TO BE SENT TO ALL ACTIVE AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Attachment

Rev. Ryan Travis, Pastor  
E-Mail: [pastorryan@firstchurchdecatur.org](mailto:pastorryan@firstchurchdecatur.org)

Phone: 217-877-2216 [www.firstchurchdecatur.org](http://www.firstchurchdecatur.org)

[firstchurchdecatur@sbcglobal.net](mailto:firstchurchdecatur@sbcglobal.net)



## **Summary of Constitution/By-Laws/Organizational Manual Proposed Changes**

### **First Congregational United Church of Christ**

**September 2017**

In October 2016, the Congregation approved the suspension of the Organizational Manual and setting aside some of the verbiage in the Constitution and By Laws in order to proceed under a trial organizational system. The old system of operation was originally put in place in the 1980's when the church had more members. Over time, it became increasingly difficult to fill all the ministries and, thus, to conduct the business of the church.

The old structure required 11 ministries with a minimum of 64 members. The new structure requires 6 ministry teams with 16 members, plus the pastor. The ministry team co-leaders have the responsibility of coordinating the specific tasks of each ministry team, but are not required to do all the work. Most of the work is done by volunteers for each ministry team. These volunteers can do just one thing, or many depending upon their time and talents.

The church has been operating under this new structure for one year. The Council of Ministry Teams has found the structure very workable and is happy with the outcome. This structure has resulted in fewer meetings for the members of the congregation, more small opportunities to volunteer, and lots of involvement in the activities of the church.

Specific changes proposed to the Constitution/By-Laws/Organizational Manual include:

1. Combining Adult, Children's, LOGOS, Youth, and Pastoral Care Ministries into Christian Nurture Ministry Team. This ministry team as 3 co-leaders due to the amount of work involved;
2. Combining Evangelism and Outreach Ministries into Outreach Ministry Team with 2 co-leaders;
3. Redefining the responsibilities of Worship Music Ministry into Worship Ministry Team with 2 co-leaders;
4. Property Ministry becomes Property Ministry Team with 2 co-leaders;
5. Nominating/Stewardship Ministry becomes Nominating/Stewardship Ministry Team with 2 co-leaders;
6. Administrative Ministry becomes Administration Team with 1 at-large member eliminated and the treasurer added;
7. Changing terms for team co-leaders to allow for continuous service if the individuals feel a calling to do so;
8. Change the terms for officers to allow more flexibility in service time;
9. Define members, associate members, dual members and inactive members more fully;
10. Change the percentage of the over-budget-spending before needing congregational approval (changed from 2% to 5%), and add language to further clarify ("Exceptions to this rule shall occur when individuals or foundations offer designated gifts or memorials for specific projects and programs. Significant alterations to the building and grounds, exempting maintenance, repair, and upgrades of existing equipment, require congregational approval.").
11. The existing Organizational Manual would cease to exist, as everything would be in the Constitution/By-Laws.

# Women's Fellowship News

Women's Fellowship had another banner rummage sale netting us \$1,233.00 for 1 1/2 days of sales. We had good publicity and thanks Steve for placing the ad in the H&R newspaper and I got articles in the Herald and Review, Decatur Tribune and Mt. Zion Regional News. PLUS the signs out front.

THANK YOU to everyone who donated items for us to sell, helped us set up, helped mark, helped sell and the biggest job...helped cleaning up after the sale. The place was spotless!!

Special men who helped us ladies were: Mark Flenner, Dave Carpenter, Paul DeBruine, Dave Gant, Steve Morrison, Jim Baldwin and Rev. Ryan! You all helped us and that was wonderful. Setting up tables, loading the boxes in your vehicles and driving them down to Blessingdales was a great help to us and we are thankful for your service. I hope I didn't leave out anyone else who helped.

We are hoping that Property will find an Ice Machine that doesn't make such a loud noise and is more efficient (mildew collecting on top etc) for us to purchase PLUS we are wondering about purchasing a "headset" for Rev. Ryan. Comments are some have trouble hearing his wonderful sermons on Sunday and we so don't want to miss anything he is preaching. will update you as things progress.

AGAIN THANKS to everyone who helped us.  
President Darla

Women's Fellowship will be holding a "High Tea" on Friday, October 20th 1:00 - 3:00 in Fellowship Hall. Search out those gloves and hats and come and enjoy some delicious treats for all to enjoy. Guests are most welcome but let one of us know so we have enough prepared to serve all. Martha, Ellen, Norma and I will be looking for your reservation during October and deadline will be 15th after Church. We haven't gotten everything worked out YET but plan to attend and enjoy yourselves - the more the merrier!

Darla



Women's Fellowship Group Visiting Okaw Valley Apple Orchard



# General Information

## Please Lock Church Doors

**Church Building Security**, ALL church doors should be kept locked at all times as a general rule. This applies even during the day time. On specific occasions, unlocking is acceptable, but they need to be closely monitored. We should basically have everything locked, all the time, unless it is preschool entrance/dismissal time.

## Church Video Projector

Recently, we have had some problems locating the church's video projector. Therefore, please return the video projector to the cabinet in the copy room after use. Also, the Church Secretary will have a sign out sheet for the projector. This will allow us to know who is using the projector and when.

# Finance Notes

## AUGUST 2017 FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>Aug 17</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budget Income	\$18,288.92	\$146,311.36
Budget Expense	\$17,714.72	\$141,717.76
Income	\$12,545.85	\$126,951.82
Expenses	\$14,862.80	\$131,715.60



# LOGOS

**LOGOS' Butter Braids and Show Me Dough Cookies/Pizza Fundraiser begins on Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at LOGOS.**

- ◇ Orders will be taken October 4 - November 8. Payment must be made at the time of ordering. **Make checks payable to:** First Congregational UCC-LOGOS
- ◇ Pickup of items will be on Tuesday, November 14, 4:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
  - ◆ Butter Braids (\$14.00) are 22 oz. pastries in the flavors of: Apple, Cherry, Cinnamon, Cream Cheese, Raspberry, Strawberry Cream Cheese and Caramel Roll.
  - ◆ Show Me Dough Cookies (\$17.00 / \$16.00) are 40 pre-portioned cookie dough, ready to bake, in flavors of: Candy, Oatmeal Cranberry White Chunk, White Chunk Macadamia Nut / Chocolate Chip, Peanut Butter and Snickerdoodle.
  - ◆ Show Me Dough Pizzas (\$18.00) are 2 delicious full-size 11" pizzas in each box, ready to bake, in flavors of: Four Cheese, Ultimate Pepperoni, Meat Lovers and BBQ Chicken.

These are FANTASTIC for the holidays, so stock up NOW!!!

LOGOS ministry will be in the Fellowship Hall between services and in the narthex after the 11:00 a.m. service on October 15, 22 & 29 and November 5 to take orders **OR** see a LOGOS participant **OR** LOGOS ministry member to place an order. Ministry members are: Sharon Burbes, Jeanette Flenner, Sandy Harmison, Sheila Mannweiler, Marsha Mower, Maureen Ruski and Chuck Zweck.

**Please help support the LOGOS program – order your Butter Braids and Show Me Dough Cookies October 4 – November 8!**

## General Information

The Representative meeting and Bible Study for The Decatur Area Church Women United will meet on Monday, October 9th at 9:00 AM at Grace United Methodist Church, 901 N. Main St.

Ardena Hunter, our Bible Study Leader will lead the discussion for our upcoming World Community Day Celebration "Kindling New Fires for Peace". For further information, contact Darla Weltmer at 877-7008. She would be happy to pick you up. All are welcome to attend.

### FFDO

Gosh how time flies! Time to plan for First Friday Dinner Out already for October! Well, October 6 we will meet at Bizou. It has been a while since we visited this establishment and it should be warmer this time. See you there at 6:00 just let me know you are attending.  
Sandy Harmison

# LOGOS

## LOGOS THEMES 2017-2018

SEPTEMBER

10 - Rally Day

13 - Staff Gathering

20 - Welcome to LOGOS

27 - Little Italy

SEPTEMBER 2017

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

OCTOBER 2017

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

OCTOBER

4 - The 4<sup>th</sup> of October

11 - Batter Up

18 - NO LOGOS

25 - Trunk or Treat

(parking lot 6:15-6:45)

NOVEMBER

1 - Western Hoedown

8 - Celebrate Veterans

14 - Butter Braid pick-up 4:45

15 - Give Thanks

22 - NO LOGOS

29 - Setting Sail

NOVEMBER 2017

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

DECEMBER 2017

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

DECEMBER

6 - A LOGOS Christmas

13 - NO LOGOS

17 - Christmas Pageant 9:00

20 - NO LOGOS

27 - NO LOGOS

Butter Braid/Show Me Dough Fundraiser

October 4 – November 8

(delivery 11/14 – pick-up 4:45-5:15pm)

LOGOS meets 4:15 – 6:45pm, unless otherwise noted.



# Happenings

## FFDO

Friday, October 6

6:00 pm

Bizou



## God's Busy Hands

Tuesdays

1:00 - 3:00 pm



God's Busy Hands

## Choir

Wednesdays

7:00 pm



Sing With Us

## First Ringers

Thursdays

5:45 pm



## Special Called Congregational Meeting

Sunday, October 22

10:00 am

## Admin Meeting

Monday, October 9

5:30 pm

## Council of Ministry Teams

Monday, October 16

5:30 pm

# October Birthdays and Anniversaries

God bless you on your birthday and each day the whole year through. May all His blessings bring you joy in everything you do.

- 6. Todd Clark  
Alfreda Tribout
- 7. Don Merritt
- 17. Ronald Palmer
- 19. Bobbie Taylor
- 20. Frank Smith
- 21. Marilyn Jordan
- 23. Amy Leman  
Don Moster
- 24. Robert Ruehrup  
Christina Huckile
- 25. Alex Miller
- 26. Mary Beck
- 28. Tyler Brownfield  
Tracy Johnson
- 31. Mark Jaberg

And may the many blessings that have come from God above fill your hearths with all the joy of His enduring love. Happy Anniversary.

- 4. Ted & Darby Mitchell
- 10. Joe Moretti & Maureen Ruski
- 11. Mark & Susan Daley
- 12. Everett & Shirley Kuhn
- 20. John & Ashley Lofland
- 21. Don & Debbie Moster

## Remember to Pray for and Visit Members Who are in Assisted Living and Nursing Homes

### **Primrose Retirement Community**

Claude Young—Room 228  
Marian Simpson—Room 130

### **Keystone**

Carolyn Jones—Room 216

### **Vonderlieth Living Center, Mt. Pulaski, IL**

Alice Roach

### **Hickory Point Christian Village**

Al Wilson—Room 202  
Patricia Weiss—Room 325

### **Evergreen Place**

Mary Lou Phipps—Room 208

### **Fair Haven Christian Home**

Lois Shelton—Room 113

### **Decatur Rehab Health Care**

Beverly Capshaw -Room 22

### **McKinley Court**

Dale Capshaw—307

### **Lincolnshire Place**

Marie Bauer—Room 213



# First Church Sunday Morning

	Date	9:00 AM Service	11:00 AM Service
 <b>LITURGISTS</b>	October 1	Churck Zweck	
	October 8	Bill Huebner	
	October 15	Penny Butts	
	October 22	Marilee Gordon	
	October 29	Mindy Bunselmeyer	
 <i>Altar Flowers</i>	October 1	Ted & Darby Mitchell	
	October 8	Sandy Harmison	
	October 15	Ev & Shirley Kuhn	
	October 22	Betty Henry	
	October 29	Don & Dee Weneker	
 <i>Fellowship hour</i>	October 1	Kristin Hargrove	Mark/Jeanette Flenner
	October 8	Dave & Marlene Gant	Missy Boldizar
	October 15	Betty Cummings, Laurel Lorey	Sandy Harmison
	October 22	Paul & Ruth Debruine	Betty Wheatley
	October 29	Todd & Jennie Wernecke	Kathy Richardson
 <b>USHERS</b>	October 1	Dave Carpenter, Marilee Gordon, Mike & Toni Longstreet	Mark/Jeanette Flenner
	October 8	Chuck Zweck, Darla Weltmer, Martha Crookshank, Norma Lingenfelter	Praise Band
	October 15	Joe & Carol Robertson, Tom & Paula Cordts	Fonseca Family
	October 22	Sheila Mannweiler, Jodi Baldwin, Gary Weiss, Sandi Pleasants	Betty Wheatley
	October 29	Ted & Darby Mitchell, Todd & Jenny Wernecke	Kathy Richardson

Thank you to all who participate in these very important activities!



# October Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Dedication Sunday Receive Pledges	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 AA: Al-anon 8:00 AA	<b>4</b> 4:15-6:45 LOGOS 7:00 Choir	<b>5</b> 2:15 Girl Scouts 5:45 1st Ringers	<b>6</b> Women's Fellowship Meeting	<b>7</b> 8:00 AA
<b>8</b> 10: 00 Thanksgiving Sunday Celebration	<b>9</b> 5:30 Admin 7:00 Property Meeting	<b>10</b> 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 AA: Al-anon 8:00 AA	<b>11</b> 4:15-6:45 LOGOS 7:00 Choir	<b>12</b> 2:15 Girl Scouts 5:45 1st Ringers	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:00 Tradi- tional 10:00 Fellow- ship Hour 11:00 Con- temporary	<b>16</b> 5:30 Council of Ministry Teams	<b>17</b> 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 AA: Al-anon 8:00 AA	<b>18</b> 7:00 Choir	<b>19</b> 2:15 Girl Scouts 5:45 1st Ringers	<b>20</b> 1:00 –3:00 Women's Fellowship High Tea	<b>21</b> 8:00 AA
<b>22</b> 10:00 Special Congrega- tional Meeting	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 AA: Al-anon 8:00 AA	<b>25</b> 4:15-6:45 LOGOS 7:00 Choir	<b>26</b> 2:15 Girl Scouts 5:45 1st Ringers	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 8:00 AA
<b>29</b> 9:00 Tradi- tional 10:00 Fellow- ship Hour 11:00 Con- temporary	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 1:00 God's Busy Hands 7:00 AA: Al-anon 8:00 AA				



First Congregational UCC  
3465 N. MacArthur Rd.  
Decatur, IL 62526-1450

## 2017 Church Goals

Your Council of Ministry Teams has approved the following 3 goals for 2017:

### **2017 Church Goals**

Living into who are (or have become). The reality is we are a “small church” and need to celebrate what we can do, let go of what we can’t do and look at organizing/working together in a way that is supported by our true size, utilizing our resources in the best possible way.

- Goal No. 1 - Review our organization structure to better align with other United Church of Christ churches of our size and improve the staffing and effectiveness of our ministries.
- Goal No. 2 – Develop new Outreach ministries to Decatur and the surrounding area.
- Goal No. 3 - To come to understand for ourselves, and be able to articulate to others, who Jesus is to us, both as individuals and as a community.

The current status of these goals is as follows:

- Goal 1 - Gary Baker and Marsha Mower have started the rewrite/consolidation of the Org Manual, Constitution and By-Laws, to incorporate our current ministry team model.
- Goal 2 – Outreach Ministry Team Co-Leaders, Joe Moretti and Gary Baker, are visiting the local agencies we support, to assess the needs and determine if we need to reallocate the support we give.
- Goal 3 – Pastor Ryan is crafting a First Church-specific study that would include small groups that meet for a series of six weeks or so to discuss a specific topic while getting to know each other more intimately. He foresees this taking place in October, running into early November.