

Flossmoor Community Church

Governing Board Minutes

From the Meeting Held on Tuesday, July 28, 2020

7:47 pm – via Zoom

Members in attendance: Anna Carvalho, Rebecca Courington, Sharon Dobben, Susan Durkin, Felton Maxie, Bob Norby, Vanessa Richardson, Terese Thrall, Pastor Julie Van Til

Members not present: Christian Kneeland, Kimberly Lipe, Kris McManus, Donica Van Voorhees

Staff: Pastor Julie Van Til, Betsy Hanzelin

Others present and reporting: Chris Riedel

The Governing Board (GB) meeting began at 7:47 PM.

****Felton Maxie (Kenny), the new Secretary, was enthusiastically welcomed to the GB.****

Opening Prayer

Bob Norby shared the opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and passed to approve the minutes from the June 23, 2020 GB meeting.

Treasurer's Report - Bob Norby.

- Revenues \$41,383.00 slightly below budgets -- Total pledge collection 93%
- June plate offering just over \$4000.00 ("a nice surprise")
- Nothing on 2020 Challenge in May is just over \$17000.00
- \$586,000.00 against a budget of \$600,000.00 at this point.
- Net operating total (\$22,00.00) vs budgeted (\$18,000.00)
- Current unrestricted cash is \$112,389.00
- Praise Director in budget (this person was not hired). Saves \$13,000.00 (the realization of not hiring praise director and the two half salaries).
- PPP (small-business loan) finished eight-week covered period on July 08
- Bob filling out newly revised government forms for future loans
- Tax form (for forgiveness) needs review (won't be ready until mid-October)

Pastor's Report - Pastor Julie Van Til

- Julie has moved into her new home.
- Her preaching schedule was adjusted to allow Julie to complete her move.
- Julie has been meeting with Governing Board members and committee members.
- Exciting event...deacons met for the first time this year.
- Julie stated that she's spent time with the School Superintendent and parents of the community,
- She's met with non-FCC members of the community (some of those she's spoken to have inquired about participating in FCC activities)
- Julie stated that her theme revolves around "authenticity"
- Depression and anxiety are topics of concern for Julie: people have reached out to her about these matters. These matters are inherently the result of the pandemic. Julie has used her pastoral funds to assist when she has been able.
- Julie would like "permission" to serve the community by allocating more of her pastoral assistance fund.
- Julie stated that she has performed her first FCC funeral (dubious in that it was a solemn event, but the community is now aware that she is available to officiate these reverent occasions.

- Anna has suggested an e-blast to alert those who may need assistance. This will be communicated in church announcements.

New Business

LRVC: Chris Riedel provided updates and views on the mission of the Long-Range Vision committee.

- Chris spoke about his recently drafted/released document
- He spoke about the events of the past few months and how they have accelerated the speed of plans that need to be in play.
- His Committee believes that the following, specific things that should be addressed (George Floyd and the current Pandemic are catalysts):
 - Articulate the vision of the committee to the community.
 - Engagement with boards and committees to develop the conversations to be had with the community.
 - People in LRV will meet with boards and committees to ensure that they are on Track

Discussion

- Chris has preliminary set of questions (what is the extent that the congregation represents the community)
- Anna expressed that she was perplexed that members of the community were not aware that FCC was a part of the community.
- Lois expressed the positivity she expressed when engaged in conversations about the sensitive topic of race with members of the African American community.
- Terese believes that the church should engage in the long-range vision, but not lose its authenticity.
- Lois believes that the Chris's strategy is consistent with the long-range vision of FCC
- Chris stated that Lois has been added to the regular distribution.

FCC's Commitment to End Racism: Anna Carvalho addressed the need for the statement and is seeking approval from the GB to submit a Statement on the matter to the congregation.

Discussion:

- Anna asked if the GB members had read her revised Statement on racism.
- She expressed that the Statement is an invitation to the congregation to take on racism.
- Conversation needs to be had as a collective (not necessarily as individuals)
- Per Vanessa's request, Anna read the statement to the GB. She provided brief explanations of her rationale for certain sections.
- Bob inquired about the specific reference of "We" in the Statement: "Does 'we' refer to caucasian people in the United States or does 'we' refer to the FCC congregation?" Anna clarified: It is her assertion that "we" references the FCC congregation as opposed to a certain group.
- Vanessa asked the question, "Why wasn't this conversation had before George Floyd and the current protests?" Anna's answer, "We are taking the first steps to genuine conversation and action."
- Rebecca asked, "How do we effectively communicate this vision to the congregation in these challenging times?" Anna's answer, "Through ZOOM, e-blasts. The vision is to be communicated to the congregation for its consideration."
- Vanessa asked, "Can "Black Lives Matter (BLM) " be a part of FCC?" It is Anna's belief that agreement is needed by the congregation in adopting the BLM posture. She stated, "The congregation should make the decision to address racism in this manner. "It is important to get the vision in front of the congregation."
- Susan suggested "cottage meetings" as they may be an effective method of membership consideration and engagement of the new vision. Mixed demographics of the meetings were encouraged.
- Susan expressed concern that older members of the congregation may not have access to the vision because of their potential challenges in using today's technology.
- It was suggested that mailings could be sent to those members who may not have digital access to FCC content.

- Julie stated that “As Christians, we need to be uncomfortable in conversation. The Statement is a launchpad for this.”
- Rebecca asked if the documents (Statement/LRV) could be shared with members of the committees/boards. It was agreed that they could be shared.

A motion was made and passed on the dissemination of the Statement to the Congregation.

Strategic Plan for 2020-2021 -- Initial Discussion

- Anna wants to ensure that we are not leaving anything out
- She stated that it is important to remember that we are a church whose mission, in part, is to address racism. FCC is not necessarily a civil rights organization.

Old Business

Announcements -- Updates, resources for new members

References for this year:

“White Fragility” by Robin Diangelo;

“How to be an Antiracist” by Ibram X. Kendi

Anna suggested that the GB should read the books. They are available at Bookie’s in Homewood.

Visioning

The Visioning portion of this GB meeting was more or less addressed earlier in the meeting. It will be covered in more detail during the next GB meeting.

Closing Prayer

Sharon Dobben shared the closing prayer.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Making God’s profound love tangible in a place of safety, vitality and daring

REPORTS TO GOVERNING BOARD – August 2020

Board of Christian Education

Children’s Ministry: Leslie Maxie

Highlights:

- I have been taking kids in the community through lessons on racism, through books. This past month we talked about recognizing and appreciating differences and belonging to yourself first, because once you belong to yourself, you belong everywhere you go.
- We had the school blessing. We couldn’t do backpack tags, so we got worry stones that said “Faith” on them and wrote a special blessing card for them and delivered them to all of the Sunday school students.
- I have found some good resources for fall online Sunday school including activity bags with interactive prayer cards, modification of current curriculum lessons to online platform, parent support, etc.

Hopes:

- Hoping to have a specific plan for Sunday school soon
- Hoping people register and are looking forward to Sunday school
- Hoping to have small group kick off gatherings through the month of September
- Hoping to come up with a better way to communicate with parents that they are able to respond to more easily.
- Hoping to come up with more and greater ideas for the Sunday school year.

All of these things will be dependent on the comfort level of the parents and students.

Youth Ministry: Travis Adams

Highlights

- Completed Senior Celebrations and Compilation Videos
- Completed large project of dropping off Back-to-School blessing material and gifts to children and youth
- Spent a large amount of time researching and constructing a social media platform that will permit a multitude of opportunities for youth and parents to interact and stay up to date with church events.
- Began compiling and researching for new curriculum to match the upcoming liturgical cycle which can be implemented via online setting
- Started formulating plans for Kick off, Confirmation, and Leadership Training plans.

Hopes

- To complete Kick off, Confirmation, and Leadership training plans by the end of September.
- To engage students and parents with new media platforms in expedite information sharing and community engagement.

Adult Education: Jessica Groen

Highlights:

- The committee finished delivering its Monday night summer Zoom education classes on August 10. Participation averaged at about 8-12 attendees each week, including 2-3 nonmembers attending each session. A huge thanks to Betsy Hanzelin for helping coordinate audio-visual presentation links in the Zoom meeting platform. Thanks also to Brooke LaBreck for promoting the class through social media announcements and e-mail bulletins

Hopes:

- The committee will meet to discuss topics and texts that have been suggested by church leaders as well as through the survey by church members. We expect to have a curriculum and schedule published by a week or

two after Labor Day, hopefully in sync with the kickoff date of the other education programs provided for children and young people in the congregation.

Weekday Preschool: Dallas Collins

Highlights:

no preschool currently

Hopes:

I am hoping for some outdoor/playground play with parents next month (September) pending a few details to keep our space and program in mind for the future!

Submitted by Rebecca Courington, Chair

Diaconate Board

- The Diaconate Board met near the end of July, so we did not have an official meeting in August. We plan to meet again at the beginning of September.
- However, as chair I did meet with Pastor Julie, Pastor Tate and Doug King (Stephen Ministry) to discuss congregational care.
- We are in the process of revising our call list to check in on older church members during this pandemic.
- We have also resurrected our flower ministry during the month of August.

Submitted by Sue Durkin, Chair

Board of Worship & the Arts

- Board of Worship and Arts met on Tuesday, August 11 on a beautiful afternoon in the McAfee Garden. We heard an overview from Pastor Julie and Katie Van Heel on Zoom Worship and Music Ministries for the year.
- Pastor Julie discussed the results from our church survey on music.
 - She asked the committee to reflect on some ideas for worship, including gathering art, music, and/or poetry from our members to match preaching themes and lectionary readings.
- We are considering whether FCC should host an in-person worship service outside of Sunday mornings for small groups, and, if so, who would be willing to help lead this.

Submitted by Donica Van Voorhees, Chair

Board of Congregational Connections

Highlights:

- Reviewed the mission of our Board and welcomed new members, Kim Mitchell and Kristiana Bailey
- Discussed possible fellowship gatherings for Fall. Ideas included Bottle & Bottega gathering in Community House parking lot (scheduled for Sept. 12/13); Adult potluck/dinner on the lawn, movie drive-in, weekday lunch gatherings, IPO Concert at OFCC, nature walks at Izaak Walton, and gathering of recent new members.

Hopes:

- Discussed re-imagining New Member Information Session for the fall, to welcome new members.

Submitted by Betsy Hanzelin, Staff liaison

Board of Faith in Action

Highlights

- Discussed working with Homewood Community Gardens
- Discussed Voting Registration drive or the possibility of creating voting plans for the needs of our congregation/community
- Discussed ways we could support local businesses, teachers, and students
- Discussed possibility of creating a Charity of the Month to focus on via social media/website
- Proposed sending postcards to determine needs and to spread encouragement to members of the congregation/community
- Anna informed us of the Neighborscapes project developing in Harvey

Hopes

- Create partnership with Homewood Community Gardens
- Looking to find ways to create volunteer opportunities for the congregation which allow for social distancing

Submitted by Kimberly Lipe, Chair

Properties Committee

Highlights

- Shrubs and trees removed from in front of and the side of the Community House. Tree canopies trimmed on WPS playground.
- Waiting on estimates for new downspouts at Community House.
- Estimates received for masonry work on main building. Scheduling a Properties meeting soon to discuss and move forward with the work.
- New pump purchased for the pond in McAfee Garden, waiting on Tyler Thompson to move forward with repairs.
- Estimate for refrigerator repair is more than half the cost of a new refrigerator for Fellowship Hall Kitchen. Weighing repair vs. replacement.

Hopes

- Schedule work mentioned above.
- Collect estimates for Gathering Space, Chapel and Sanctuary carpeting replacement.
- Work with Foundation to determine needs in the next year.

Submitted by Jamie Ford, Staff liaison

“No Report”

Stewardship, Kris McManus

Personnel, Sharon Dobben