

Flossmoor Community Church

Governing Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

7:30 pm – via Zoom

Members Present: Anna Carvalho, Stephanie Byrd, Rebecca Courington, Sharon Dobbin, Lois Glasgow, Rick Hanzelin, Kim Lipe, Bob Norby, Vanessa Richardson, Phyliss Royster, Terese Thrall

Members Excused: Christian Kneeland

OPENING PRAYER (Kim)

EXECUTIVE SESSION began at 7:30 pm and ended at 7:41pm

FULL SESSION

Jamie Ford and Betsy Hanzelin joined after the Executive Session ended

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from March 31, 2020 (Jen)

- Bob had one correction of the minutes – Pledge commitments should be \$564,000 rather than \$546,000
- Anna had one correction of the Executive Session minutes (which will be reflected in the Executive Session report)
- Motion to approve minutes – motion passed

TREASURER'S REPORT (Bob)

- March collections were \$58,709 higher than budget
- March “2020 Challenge” was \$14,771
- Plate collections revenue came in below budget due to church closure
- Overall revenue exceeded expenses by more than \$13,000
- Projecting that April revenue will be below budget, but we had \$2,200 in plate offerings in April – which came in via the mail and/or paid online
- One pledge commitment added in April, currently sit at 149 pledging units (total pledging units last year were 168)
- No one has pulled their pledge given the economy, which is encouraging

PASTOR'S REPORT (Interim report on managing the gap - Betsy)

- Discussion around the best approach to “remote worship” offerings moving forward
- Betsy asked for clarity regarding expectations around planning of and preparation for Sunday services
 - Are we looking for a full worship experience, including music?
 - Are we ok with a more scaled back, stay at home focused worship experience and devotional?
- Anna acknowledges all the work the staff had put into the worship experience for the congregation so far in this remote transition, and is personally in favor of having a lower level of worship activities
- It was decided that if we're getting engagement with the shorter offerings, then we shouldn't put tons into a big production. GB members expressed that they liked having a devotional aspect available as well, to have personal interaction as Randy has done and/or Betsy has done.

- Agreed that it would be great to have the staff provide short devotionals; and also have some kind of written offering that folks can do at home
- Questions were raised regarding when Pastor Julie will be onboarding. Most likely the last week of May or first week in June
 - Terese raised the question of how we ensure that Pastor Julie has the best start possible and would it make sense for her to start in May to work with the staff, and then have her be front facing in June
 - Anna and Jamie will talk offline about that whether or not Pastor Julie could start earlier, but her general stance has been for her to take the time to move her family and get situated
- Board members and staff agreed that it makes sense to have her start at the beginning of June; but if she feels she wants to offer creating worship “snippets” and/or attending staff meetings in May then that would be appreciated
- Once is it determined, staff and Anna will let Board members know

NEW BUSINESS

Candidate Engagement (Anna et al)

- Quick update that everything is moving forward with remote meet and greets, as well as preparations for congregational voting

Long Range Vision Approach to Transformation Plan (Chris Riedel)

- LRV Committee is in the process of determining a timeline of the deliverables that were presented in the document shared in the last GB meeting
- Will have a list of things that need to get done in the short term, and then also a list of things that will have to get done in 12-18 months
- Currently focusing on coordinating and getting everyone’s feedback on the committee and then getting the timeline together to share with the GB members
- Chris recommended connecting with Julie directly to get her input as well
- Chris and Anna agreed to talk more about that offline

OLD BUSINESS

Stewardship (Rick)

- At 97% of where we wanted to be from a pledge perspective if we include the 2020 challenge;
- still continuing to discuss how we keep awareness up and keep stewardship at the forefront
- Anna suggested that we continue to encourage more of the congregation to automate their pledges
- Rick confirmed that they will be continuing the 2020 Challenge, including reports about where we currently are with pledges, what we want to do, and how the challenge can get us there
- If/when we reach 115%, then we can start putting money back into Faith in Action

Worship and Arts (Steph)

- Anna said that she mentioned our search for a Praise Director to Pastor Julie, and she agreed to reach out to her contacts
- Jamie has already notified Katie

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VISIONING (Anna)

- Anna asked Board members to share their one unexpected gift and one unexpected challenge during this time

CLOSING PRAYER (Betsy)

Betsy shared the Psalm 100 – Psalm of Thanksgiving

ADJOURN

Ended at 8:35

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

Board/Committee Reports to Governing Board – May 2020

Finance Committee

HIGHLIGHTS:

- FCC was approved for a 'forgiveness loan' under the Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program. The loan monies are to be used for all wage & utility (electric, gas, water, phone, internet) expenses during the 8-week period starting May 14 thru July 8.
- Both wages & utilities are eligible for forgiveness according to PPP formulas (which are calculated at the end of the 8-week period).
- No collateral was required for the loan. Interest on the 2-year loan is 1% and cannot be increased. First monthly repayment commences on December 5, 2020. There is also no penalty for early repayment.

HOPES:

- Understand, generate & maintain the required documentation to allow maximum loan forgiveness.

Submitted by Bob Norby, Chair

Board of Faith in Action

Board of Faith In Action did not have a meeting this month. Those of us who volunteered received an email last week from Feed My Starving Children regarding our volunteer activity in February.

- *"The meals you packed at our Aurora, IL location on February 17, 2020 arrived in Venezuela on May 12 to help feed kids.*
- *Precious children are eating a nourishing meal because of you. Thank you. You've made an incredible difference.*

- *Did you know? Meals usually take between two weeks and six months to travel to their destination. It all depends on where in the world they go and how hard it is to get there. They cross the ocean by ship or plane and wait in line to clear customs. Then they journey by car, bike, canoe or even donkey to reach our partners. Many hands carry these meals to children and families in need."*

Submitted by Kim Lipe, Chair

Board of Christian Education

Children's Ministry

Leslie Maxie

- Zoom Sunday school is going well. We have a good group of kids that join each week and a few teachers too. They seem to be enjoying it.
- I extended the curriculum year through the end of May, it would have normally been over the first week of May.
- The last week will be a fun day, dance party for the little ones and not sure what for the older kids yet but I purchased crosses for the 5th graders that are "graduating" from the program. I will drop the crosses off to them next week and Travis is joining us on the 31st for a short time so that we can do a short "ceremony" to congratulate the 5th graders and Travis can welcome them into the youth program.
- After that, I will get my head together and come up with some virtual ways to connect with the community for "WooHOO Wednesdays" for the summer.
- VBS is officially cancelled. There's just no fun way to do it, in person, with all of the restrictions. I will also be trying to come up with virtual community options for the kids for vbs, on a much smaller scale. An art project or bible story here and there over the summer.

Youth Ministry

Travis Adams

- In the past month, we have continued our two weekly only events. Attendance for our Wednesday night Bible studies have received sporadic attendance, but our Friday evening Game Nights has increased steadily.
- As we head into the summer months, Covid-19 continues to leave the program in disarray. Despite the uncertainty surrounding the return to congregating within the church walls, we have begun a few initiatives aimed at progressing the Confirmation process (via online Pastoral Interviews) and maintaining some sense of normalcy with annual traditions (via collecting photos for the Senior Collage Video).
- With the help of lay leadership and parental feedback, I am beginning to investigate further various charitable and social events that may still prove feasible while maintaining social distancing. Ideas include transferring aspects of the Confirmation Retreat into online exercises, participating in philanthropic projects via Zoom, and collaborating on art projects to boost morale for essential workers. We hope for these events to serve as positive ways to invest time into meaningful work and relationship building.
- We also look forward to the graduation of the fifth graders into the youth program. Following a celebratory service on May 31st, I will meet with the students and their parents in online Zoom meetings to welcome them to the program, introduce them to the flow of the yearly events, and learn more about their specific ministerial needs.
- Despite all the setbacks with the Coronavirus, we continue to remain hopeful and have shared numerous beautiful moments together. We are eternally grateful for this positive community of Christ despite living in less than positive times.

Weekday Preschool

Dallas Collins

- Since the closure of school on March 13th, teachers have been in constant communication via, phone, text, email & home visits.
- WPS created a YouTube page and in conjunction with the Facebook page, stories, songs and musical movements have been posted and shared among the community.
- Some classes have conducted virtual zoom meetings and have enjoyed "seeing" their faces from the homes.
- We also held a teacher parade on May 2, families were able to drive by, see teachers lined on both sides of the street and wave hello! This week would have been our classroom picnics and last meetings- we're sad to wrap the year up this way, it started off so wonderful!
- Teachers have packed up their classroom and have made the room ready to be cleaned for summer.
- Stay tuned for the summer update :)

Adult Education

Jessica Groen

- No Report
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Submitted by Rebecca Courington, Chair

Properties Committee

Highlights:

- Bob and Dave are keeping up with building maintenance, yard/lawn clean-up and taking on projects that are difficult to do with a full building.
- Deep cleaned Fellowship Hall Kitchen
- Deep clean/organize kitchenette on 2nd floor
- Finished cleaning/waxing tile floors on 2nd floor education wing.
- Community House kitchen, attic and sound board room have been organized, cleaned out and deep cleaned.

Hopes:

- Properties Committee will begin working on 2020 Facilities projects funded by the FCC Foundation. More updates to follow, soon.

Submitted by Jamie Ford, staff liaison

"No Report"

FCC Foundation, Lois Glasgow