

# Board and Committee Reports to Governing Board

October 2021

## No Reports/Meetings

Diaconate Board

Board of Worship & Arts

## Board of Christian Education

### Children's Ministry - Leslie Maxie

#### Highlights:

- New curriculum is going GREAT!
- Volunteers are wonderful and always where they need to be
- Story tellers have been outstanding
- There is a steady number of kids (although I wish more were comfortable coming)
- Parents are actually attending worship
- 1st multigenerational worship is next week

#### Hopes:

- Hoping kids continue to come when it gets cold and we are inside
- Hoping multigenerational worship is well attended
- Hoping Covid is just over soon 😊

### Youth Ministry- Travis Adams

#### Highlights:

- Travis has returned from his medical leave and is doing very well! He is excited to get back into the groove and join the youth in several exciting upcoming events.
- We had a small turnout for assistance with the We Scare Hunger Trail. The families that did participate in the "family friendly" version gave it raving reviews...but said it was still surprisingly scary! We had 7 youth assist with both the FCC Fall Festival and set up for the Hunger Trail, which are smaller numbers than we hoped, but still a good start for a new tradition!
- The past two weeks our youth have been taking a quick trip out to participate in a "Waffle Night" where we go to the local IHOP and enjoy a meal of fellowship and fun. So far both kids and parents seem to enjoy the outing and the pictures reflect our general love for sugar-based meals.
- This weekend we venture back to Tower Hill with our Confirmation students for our Spiritual Disciplines Retreat. During this time, we spend the weekend exploring various traditions and exercises as we ponder "What does it mean to experience God?" For many of our young people, this is a crucial quandary as they decipher their willingness to join the FCC family, so please pray that the Holy Spirit speaks to our hearts as we set the stage for some challenging but fun experiences for our Confirmation Kids!
- And that is just the end of October! We still have so much coming up before the end of the year. Thanks once again for all of the churches support. Having this new format of youth kids and all of the activities back has truly breathed life into not just this program but for all of the students and adults involved. We look forward to seeing how God continues to move among us!

### Adult Education - Betsy Hanzelin

#### Highlights:

- Hosting two Sunday Forums featuring FCC partners - September: Dr. Ann Jackson from *Center for Food Equity in Medicine*; October: Heather Lundy from *Khesed Wellness*

- October Book Discussion, led by Trina Hayes on “Saving Ruby King”.
- Start of 6 week Bible Study on Lectionary Texts (through November 17).

#### Hopes:

- Generate interest for November Forum featuring Pastor Jeremy Simpson, *Executive Director of Wesley Foundation and Worship Catalyzer for the Christian Reformed Church*. Pastor Simpson helps congregations develop genuine, diverse and hospitable approaches to worship music.
- We look forward to the return of Trina Hayes’s regular book studies when she returns to the area. Next book is “Dusk, Night, Dawn” by Anne Lamott, and sessions start on Oct. 31.

#### Weekday Preschool- Dallas Collins

##### Highlights:

- Back to school night was a success! We had three 30 minute time slots parents were able to sign up for to tour the classroom and playground. Art 4 Soul was here for parents to do tiles with their kids for a small fee. DQ treats on the playground were handed out by Pastor Julie
- 3 additional teachers attended the appreciative inquiry weekend, it was a good experience!
- Picture Days went well and were done on the playground with Thomas Photographic
- Field trips happened on 10/12, 2’s & 3’s are went to Windmill Acres in Beecher, 4’s & 5’s went to The Children’s Farm in Palos Park. Fun was had by all!

##### Hopes:

- We were preparing for enrichments to start in October but we have decided to hold off until after the new year.
- All staff will attend CPR training Tuesday October 26<sup>th</sup> with the Flossmoor Fire Department
- We are prepping for Halloween differently this year, parents will not be in the classroom for a traditional party but rather have a “normal” school days with a treat and game with their teachers.
- Playground clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, November 6, 8:30-10:30

#### Board of Congregational Connections

The Board did not meet in October, but held the first BCC event of the program year, “Good Gourd” on Saturday, October 16. The event was a great success, especially for families from the Community. “New Heartaches” band was just perfect for the event, and our two food vendors (Sunshine Kitchen and Smallcakes) sold out! Having the event BYOB took great stress of the planning and execution of the day. Many thanks to Brooke King-LaBreck for all her hard work!

#### Board of Faith in Action

##### HIGHLIGHTS

- Beginning soon, we will designate the first Sunday of the month “**Stock Up Sunday**”. The congregation will receive a list of food needed to stock the pantry in Fellowship Hall run by the Center for Food Equity in Medicine.
- In February we will hold a Food Pantry drive for **Respond Now**. We will have a Respond Now representative give a Mission Minute and the following week ask for food to be donated.
- FCC will again support the **Bethel Angel Tree** and satisfy the wish lists of to 60 individuals who will be living in a local hotel. Congregants and community members will be asked to ‘adopt’ family members and single individuals through the online application called Signup Genius; it will be touchless just like last year.
- Anew (formerly South Suburban Family Shelter) awarded FCC with the Diane Kessler Community Champion Award. The Kessler family presented the award to the Board of Faith in Action and the glass sculpture given to us is on display at the Welcome Desk.
- Heather Lundy will be preaching and talking about Khesed on October 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Restorative Justice discussion: We decided that although this element of FIA is on our hearts, we are not ready to have this be an action item at this point. We discussed that a direction that fits our board and congregation may evolve as we go forward.
- October 3 was World Communion Sunday and the receipts for the contributions are still being tallied.

##### HOPES

- We are excited about the opportunity to share more of FIA's efforts with the congregation and to offer speakers from our agencies for Adult Education.
- We look forward to offering office space (thank you, Properties Board) for Khesed Wellness. We will put everything in place to offer this service in early 2022.

## **Finance Committee**

### **Highlights**

- Welcomed new Finance Committee members
- Generated 2022 preliminary budget scenarios

### **Hopes**

- Make Finance Committee liaison assignments
- Begin 2022 budget process with in-person discussions

## **Personnel Committee**

### **Highlights**

- Committee has a vacancy and Nominating is aware and working to fill it.
- Mike Rogers and Pastor Julie Van Til performed exit interviews with Vonda Hardesty and Mike Rugen. Details were shared in executive session and filed in Vonda and Mike's personnel files.
- Katie VanHeel and Mike Rogers are currently taking interviews and auditions for the open interim organist position.
- Worship & Arts and Personnel approved a job description for the Director of Music Ministries. The position has been posted and a search committee is being formed. Applications are due by 11/22/21 and interviews will take place in early December.
- Committee is working on a non-disparagement clause to be amended to the Employee Manual. It is with our lawyer and awaiting review and approval.
- Nina Harris was hired as the interim administrative assistant.
- Dylan Parry was hired as an alternate day porter for every other Sunday and building set-up and flips, as needed.
- Staff recorded their hours/tasks for 4 weeks and submit to Mike Rogers for review.
- Committee's role in hiring positions was reviewed and discussed.

### **Hopes**

- Committee hopes to choose an interim organist and have them start in November.
- Committee hopes to find and choose an outstanding Director of Music Ministries by the end of the calendar year.
- Committee will keep track of calendar items with the desire to formulate an annual Committee work plan.
- Budget recommendations in November/December.

## **Properties Committee**

### **Highlights**

- Community House Landscaping
  - Removed all the dead, overgrown, and invasive trees, and shrubs
  - In process of scraping the landscape to lay grass seed
  - In process of planting two American Hornbeams on the east side of the building framing the middle window
  - In process of installing fence panel along ramp railing for dumpster privacy
  - Late October - full fall clean-up and prepare the landscape for winter
- Community House – Interior
  - All chairs were removed from the main floor and stored on the stage on racks
  - Wings of stage were cleared out/organized and optimized for storage
  - Angels Athletics currently uses the space 1/week for dance classes

- In process of removing broken oven that is not properly vented in kitchen
- Church Building Landscaping/Outdoors
  - In process of trimming bushes and shrubs
  - Trees were pruned and shaped, as needed
  - Weeding done throughout the summer by volunteers and some staff
  - Late October – full fall clean-up and prepare the landscape for winter
  - Bollard lights are in process of having bulbs upgraded to LED and replaced
  - Two lamp posts in front and two lanterns on front of building are in process of getting new bulbs
  - Light bulbs throughout the exterior being replaced/upgraded
  - First floor office exterior windows washed
  - Sidewalk near the front ramp was mud jacked to improve the 2+ inch uneven surface
  - Cracks and spacing were sealed and caulked to improve drainage and impede basement seepage
- Weekday Preschool Playground
  - Trees trimmed and canopy raised
  - Village of Flossmoor built a swale on property along fence line of preschool neighbor to aide with water drainage.
  - Parents came out for an August playground clean-up and helped moved existing shrubs along fence line to fill in empty space
- McAfee Garden (Columbarium/Labyrinth)
  - Dead and overgrown trees and shrubs were removed
  - Pond being taken apart and repaired (torn liner, burned out pump)
  - New shrub and tree to be planted this fall
  - In process of power washing all concrete/brick
  - In process of ordering a new exterior door off stairwell (near nursery door)
  - In process of power washing and oiling 4 benches in the Columbarium area
  - In process of ordering new plaques for existing benches
- Church Building – Interior
  - In process of getting Sanctuary upgrades/updates scheduled and started with Sound Planning Associates
  - Lobby wall updated with navy blue paint and Mix Tiles (Thank you to Brooke!)
  - New offering stands/boxes (while we are unable to pass the plate during worship)
  - In process of helping clear out music office and bell room for clean-up and updates
  - Plexiglass wall built so organist can play without a mask during worship
  - Praise closet was cleared out and improvements made on interior window and ceiling where previous water/rodents were entering
  - Pest control called in to remediate mouse, bat, bee, and ant issues in the Chapel, Sanctuary, Praise Closet, and surrounding areas
  - Weekday preschool classrooms prepped, painted, moved around. Classroom floors were stripped and waxed
  - Nursery room was painted, updated, organized, and split for multi-use with a building visitor during the week
  - Genesis Room was updated with conference table to replace room 22 (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)
- Current Ongoing Space Sharing of 2218
  - Room 22 was shared with two outside groups (YouMatter2 and C.O.R.E. for office space – temporarily)
  - Room 21 will be used by Khesed starting in 2022 for counseling services
  - Ivy League uses 2 Children’s Ministries classrooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor education wing for before/after school care
  - YouMatter2 Youth Group meets in Fellowship Hall 2+/month
  - AA uses Family Room 4 days/week
  - Center for Food Equity in Medicine uses Multi-Purpose Room in Fellowship Hall
  - Sunshine Kitchen, and A Piece of the Pie use the commercial kitchen on a regular basis
  - Girl Scout meetings are picking back up and will begin to use rooms as needed for monthly meetings

## Hopes

- Community House
  - Convert the maintenance closet into a single handicapped accessible restroom
  - Paint/touch-up walls, stage, and trim
  - Landscaping
    - Fundraiser for trees winter/spring 2022
    - Plant 20+ trees on CH lawn in 2022
    - Edge and mulch beds
    - Install fence panel along basement stairwell for safety and privacy
- Church building Landscaping/Outdoors
  - Planning for gutters to be cleaned in November
  - Planning for additional outdoor lighting on property through landscape lighting, spotlights, etc.
  - Planning for upgrading the landscaping around the building over a 3-5 year plan to be developed in 2022
- Update Reserve Study needs for 2022-2027 to present to Foundation for approval and funding

Submitted by Jamie Ford, staff liaison

## FCC Foundation Report

### Highlights:

- FCCF paid FCC the third quarter 2021 Preservation, Enhancement and Benevolence Fund installment of \$16,222.
- FCCF Board Meeting Agenda included the Annual Presentation by financial advisors from the Bolton Group who reported on the PEB and Clark Funds performances have been on target.
- The FCCF Officers Annual Election was held with Lois Glasgow, President; Brad Byrd, Treasurer; Tom Sifner, Secretary. Thanks to all Board members for stepping up to serve this program year of 2021-22.
- FCCF reimbursed FCC for all speaker fees and FCC expenses for the AI Retreat from the Clark Fund.
- FCCF Leadership participated in AI and is actively involved in moving forward with the plans.

### Hopes:

- Active participation with FCC GB in advancing the AI plans.
- Support for ongoing program, Black Lives Matter, through Clark Fund
- Continued involvement and financial support for five-year capital facilities planning by updating the FCC Reserve Study, in 2022 through the PED Fund.

Lois Glasgow, President.