



**Board and Committee Reports to the Governing Board
September 2022**

Board of Congregational Connections, submitted by Brooke King-LaBreck

AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS:

Our board met for the first time hosted by our chair, Larry Kane, in his beautiful garden

- We welcomed new board members and set goals and expectations for the year
- We celebrated our amazing FCC PRIDE Party in June, which raised \$2,500 for the Lighthouse LGBTQ+ Scholarship Fund
- We planned out our entire fall calendar of special events: Welcome Back Breakfast (9/18), Tie That Binds (in partnership with FIA) (9/30), Good Gourd (10/22), BYOB BINGO (11/04), Christmas Movie Trivia Night (12/08)

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Welcome Back Breakfast on September 18 before and after worship was A HUGE SUCCESS! Thanks so much to members of the Governing Board for showing up and helping us! What a wonderful morning with our vision for fellowship and community realized as we brought back this beloved tradition. In the process of preparing for the breakfast we discovered much of our equipment needed to be replaced after being dormant for so long. The decision was made to purchase 3 new electric burners for the omelet stations (the former were propane burners and corroded), new omelet pans and spatulas. Betsy Hanzelin donated two new electric pancake griddles (our commercial iron griddle had rusted and was badly warped). Thanks to the generosity of the free-will donations collected at the breakfast, not only were our grocery expenses covered, but these new purchases were, as well. We're excited to do this again next year!
- Looking forward to partnering with Faith in Action on 9/30 for the Intergenerational Service Project & Pizza Party with "The Tie That Binds", making blankets for the Center For Food Equity In Medicine.

HOPES:

- The Board turns their planning toward their next two big events: Good Gourd and BYOB Bingo. For Good Gourd, many food and local arts vendors have already been secured. Unfortunately, last year's band is unable to return and we are still on the hunt for our entertainment. Pumpkins are ordered and we'll be releasing volunteer signups soon – we hope you can plug in and be a part of the fun afternoon!

Diaconate Board, submitted by Shari Sweeney

Highlights:

- Welcomed our new Pastoral Care Associate, Pastor Dawnn Pirani Brumfield, our staff liaison
- Gratefully acknowledged Travis' interim work with our Board
- Since June, our members have organized meals for 3 families, transportation for 3 church members, written 22 cards, delivered flowers following church each Sunday, and continued phone calling and prayer shawl ministries
- Celebrated the re-starting of Stephen Ministry, with one care receiver/caregiver pair; continued mailing of grief booklet series to 16 members

Hopes:

- Increase congregational awareness of our Board ministry areas via "Ministry Moment" during on an October Sunday
- Update our meal, transportation & flower delivery volunteer lists to engage new volunteers

Board of Faith in Action, submitted by Jackie Riffice

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Faith in Action discussed the following event or activities

- **Plant the Gem**
Trees (320) will be planted on the Flossmoor Gem race route on October 15. Jackie is willing to lead a team of 5-8 people to plant 5 trees that day and hopes members of FCC will volunteer to be on her team and form 1 or 2 other teams.
- **The Tie that Binds**
We have 14 or so signed up but would like a few more to support the Center for Food Equity in making blankets for Christmas gifts for their clients.
- **Angel Tree Bethel**
Jackie will contact them to see how we can again support unhoused people in the area.
- **Hub Partner Hospitality**
We voted to grant Pastor Julie \$250 (with more funds in the Spring if needed) to support regular gatherings with food for the FCC Hub Partners, FCC staff, and any available FIA members in order to strengthen the connections between the Hub groups, staff and community.

INTRODUCING A NEW FIA FOCUS FOR 2022-2024

- **Green Together**
The purpose of the new initiative is to enrich the congregation's understanding of the role we play to preserve God's world that is enduring global warming, climate change, declining plant and animal communities, land and air pollution, failing ecosystems and more. The Board of Faith in Action wants to offer information, resources, speakers, events, volunteer opportunities, etc. to the congregation to improve their understanding of the crises we face and how they can make a personal contribution to lessen the impact.

HOPES

We hope that GREEN TOGETHER will resonate with the congregation and compel them to become more protective of our planet with information they can use to make a small contribution to protecting the planet that was given to us to nurture for future generations.

Board of Worship & the Arts, submitted by Donica Van Voorhees

Highlights:

- Celebrated Pastor Julie (and Rob and Jeff) in their "Spirituality of Song" series. The committee had a meaningful discussion on the role of music in worship.
- Continued to provide worship support for liturgists, ushers, and communion. All committee members are learning how to prepare juice and bread for communion this year, so we can share the responsibility for this important worship task.

Hopes:

- To re-imagine the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service for next year - 2023.
- To recruit new ushers in order to bring back the offertory during the service.

Finance Committee, submitted by Jeff Groen

- Revenue Comments:
 - Pledge Collections for July right around monthly budget (~\$45,000)
 - YTD Pledge Collections are strong and above budget through July (\$343k actual vs. \$315k budget)
 - Regular Plate offerings are below budget, offsetting some of the Pledge Collection favorability
 - Main Building (2218) and Community House (847) Sharing Fees are 50% above budget through July – property usage significantly higher as we come out of severe COVID period
- Expense Comments:
 - Generally, expenses are tracking with our Budget
 - A few utilities (Gas, Water) are coming in a bit higher as commodity fees have increased, as are Community House utilities, which is related to the additional usage previously mentioned

- Large July Pastor Pension expense, but this was catching up on prior incurred expenses, so YTD Pension expenses are in line with budget
- Overall/General comments:
 - As of the end of July, we have a \$281,723 in available / unrestricted cash
 - The timing of Revenue and Expenses is not always aligned to the same month or time of year. For example, the Asst to Pastor/Pastoral Care (line item 044000) incurs expenses every month, but the offsetting revenue (039000 Hendrickson Endowment) is not received/recognized until December. This will give the perception in monthly reports that we may be further below our budget operating assumptions than we really are.
 - Additionally, the 3 revenue/expense line items tied to the FCC Foundation also have sporadic timing, and because they are also large line items, the timing can skew some of the total Revenue/Expense/Net Totals in our reports, so extra caution is urged when interpreting the reports.
 - Finally, through a series of conversations, I've learned that Funds provided to the operating budget in prior years from the Foundation for Special Projects were not spent (another impact of COVID). The Foundation board is expecting those prior funds to be spent before contributing their current year contributions. The net amount of monies to be spent before new funds would be transferred is around \$25,000. This phenomenon will result in a larger negative cash flow for 2022 than our budget because this was not reflecting in our revenue assumptions.

Personnel Committee, submitted by Mike Rogers

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Met permanent Sub-Committee for Prevention of Sexual Abuse or Harassment (Personnel Chair, Pastor, Children's Ministry Director, Youth Ministry Director, Executive Director of Church Operations, Advisor with counseling/psychotherapy background, Advisor with legal expertise), affirmed the policy was being followed, recommended format changes for the document
- Reviewed criteria for hiring Interim Employees and hired Amie Lavin as Interim Children's Ministry Director
- Recommended hiring of Rev. Dr. Dawnn M. Pirani Brumfield for the position of Pastoral Care Associate
- Welcomed new Personnel Committee members; reviewed: employment classifications and categories & the role of Personnel Committee in hiring staff; assigned duties for the coming year; outlined a calendar for Committee work in the coming year
- Planned recognizing Betsy Hanzelin for her 30-year work anniversary on September 25th at worship and with a reception at the Community House
- Appointed Audrey Weidman to serve as representative on the Weekday Preschool Directing Committee

HOPES:

- To employ an Office Administrator
- To document pastor and employee annual reviews
- To update policy documents
 - The Employee Policies and Practice Manual
 - The Policy for Prevention of Sexual Abuse or Harassment
- To recommend a non-retaliation policy

Properties Committee, submitted by Karen Cheung

Highlights:

- Flat roof repaired on Nursery
- Children's Ministries rooms refreshed, and being used for the first time since COVID!
- Children's Ministries office moved to main hallway
- Pastor Care Associate office moving into old finance office

Hopes:

- Trees planted at The Community House this fall
- Electrical issues along Travers Lane are being investigated. Repair timeline dependent upon supply chain for parts
- Present Foundation with requests for future projects based on updated reserve study

Stewardship Committee, submitted by Chris Dolan

Highlights:

The Stewardship committee is working on the fall campaign. Our theme is “you belong here” which we will bring to life in creative ways the three Sundays prior to commitment Sunday on November 6.

Hopes:

The Stewardship committee hopes to help cultivate a spirit of generous giving all year round.

Foundation Board, submitted by Lois Glasgow

Highlights

- Welcome new member Phyliss Royster to the Board. Welcome new FCC Chair, Janet Bolton, and new Treasurer, Jeff Groen, to the Board.
- Grateful for \$100,000 bequest from Cummins, Inc, included \$10,000 each year for 10 years on behalf of Robert Darnall. Mr. Darnall was a member of the Cummins Engine, Inc Board, who received this benefit in recognition for his service. He asked that the benefit be paid to FCC Foundation upon his passing.

Hopes

- The Foundation Board Members are pleased to welcome the new Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care (APPC), Dawnn Brumfield, who has joined FCC and is supported through the Hendrickson Fund and the Clark Fund.

No Report Submitted: Personnel Committee