

# **Flossmoor Community Church**

## **Meeting Minutes from the**

### **February 23, 2021 Governing Board Meeting**

#### **Call to Order**

The meeting, which was conducted over Zoom, was called to order at 19:30.

#### **Attendees**

The following FCC Governing Board (GB, Board) members were present: Anna Carvalho, Rebecca Courington, Sharon Dobben, Susan Durkin, Josh Grenard, Kenny Maxie, Bob Norby, Vanessa Richardson, Jackie Riffice, Terese Thrall, Donica Van Voorhees

The following FCC Staff Members were present: Jamie Ford, Betsy Hanzelin, Julie Van Til

FCC Foundation President, Lois Glasgow, was present for the meeting.

#### **Opening Prayer**

The opening prayer was shared by Donica Van Voorhees.

#### **Devotional**

Pastor Julie Van Til led the Devotional portion of this meeting.

She began by asking two questions. The first of these was, "In what way has it been good to have been deprived of the normalcy of life? The second question asked was, "What gift has our deprivation given us?"

These two questions were asked in preparation for the following set of questions:

- What are you actually valuing about this pandemic experience?
- What has been the most important about this past year?
- What has become meaningful that you don't want to lose?
- What do you not miss? What are you glad to have let go?
- What wasn't working anyway?
- What do you think is worth resurrecting?
- Could you wear new skin?
- Who do we think we are now?
- Who is God calling us to be?

The questions, which were asked in the context of Flossmoor Community Church, will be emailed to the GB members. Julie asked us to keep them in mind for the next Governing Board meeting.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Kenny asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the January 19, 2021 GB meeting. No corrections were offered. Anna called for a motion to approve these minutes. The GB granted its unanimous approval.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Bob Norby began by stating that FCC has received more pledge collections in January of 2021 than it did in January of 2020. He also informed the Board that the Church currently has approximately \$200,000.00 in unrestricted cash and that our second PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) loan has been approved.

## **Pastor's Report**

Pastor Julie displayed a document during the meeting that listed several of FCC's activities and events over the past 11 months. The list included happenings such as a search for a new pastor, the shutdown of the Church due to the pandemic, the setup of Zoom for online worship, the Anti-Racism series, the Advent & Christmas seasons, the adoption of the Narrative Lectionary, and many others. She asked Betsy and Jamie if anything else should be included in the list. Betsy mentioned the distribution of ashes which occurred "last week" (the week ending 02/21/2021). Pastor Julie stated that "If we're feeling tired, it's because we've had a lot going on." She stated that she feels fortunate to be a part of FCC and she expressed her gratitude for her staff and the members of Flossmoor Community Church.

Governing Board responses to the Pastor's report included the appreciation of how FCC has remained connected through the pandemic and praise of the Church's staff for making worship possible during these trying times.

## **Stewardship Report**

Bob Norby presented the Stewardship report in Kris McManus's absence. He stated that our current pledge commitments are \$529,222.00 and that this number is near the amount budgeted for the year. He informed the GB that 60 out of the current 130 pledging units have increased the amounts of their pledges.

There are 11 new pledgers this year. Bob believes that more pledgers are possible. He also believes that the possibility exists that we may exceed this year's budgeted number for pledges.

The Stewardship committee is following up with about a dozen people who normally make pledges.

## **Faith in Action Report**

Jackie Riffice presented the Faith in Action report. She requested approval from the Board for the distribution of our Easter offerings to two local agencies. The agencies are Restoration Ministries in Harvey and the South Suburban Family Shelter. Anna's moved for this request to be approved by the GB. It was done so unanimously.

Jackie also requested approval from the Governing Board regarding the adoption of a document titled, *The Purpose and Intent of the Board Faith in Action (FIA)*. The document was created to provide a clear understanding of the purpose of this committee. It will also provide a foundation for future members of the FIA committee. Bob asked if Faith in Action has by-laws that may address the role of this document? Betsy stated that the by-laws of FIA and other committees should be updated. Faith in Action's by-laws have not been updated since 1996.

## **New Business**

Pastor Julie asked how can we make the community aware that the services of Flossmoor Community Church are available on Zoom? One suggestion is to use advertising space in the Balagio restaurant in Homewood. Input from church members on this suggestion has been solicited.

Pastor Julie and the FCC staff are looking for methods to enact the Church's Holy Week traditions. It is possible that some services will be combined and the pacing of these and/or other services will be reduced.

## **Old Business**

Anna discussed the survey results from the FCC “Talks About Race” series. There was significant participation in the talks about race, and the results of the survey were generally positive. There was one disgruntled comment on 1 out of the 45 surveys returned. One Board member inquired about the negative comment. The comment suggested that, “the opinion of a white man doesn’t matter.” The results of the survey will be made public after they are organized.

Anna also provided an update on FCC’s involvement with Harvey. She stated that Jay Readey has found a property and is gathering its down payment. The home’s plans for its reconstruction are being drawn. Anna stated that the potential for an additional four or five projects exists.

Anna solicited feedback from the Board on the suggested books on Anti-Racism (i.e. *White Fragility & How to be an Anti-Racist*). She asked the question, “How should the content of these books be processed?”

Terese, who has read *White Fragility*, asked if there are questions in either book that could be used for discussion.

Anna ended this discussion by asking two questions:

1. What (anti-racism) journey are we on as a church?
2. How does the content of the proposed books align with this journey?

## **Announcements**

No announcements were made during this meeting.

## **Closing Prayer**

The closing prayer was shared by Bob Norby.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 20:46.

## **FCC Board & Committee Reports**

**In preparation for March 23, 2021**

### **Governing Board Meeting**

#### **Board of Faith in Action**

**Jackie Riffice, Chair**

##### Highlights:

- FCC has granted The Center for Food Equity in Medicine permission to use the craft space in fellowship hall as their pantry. This group is affiliated with U of Chicago and seeks to provide food and meals to those afflicted with an illness and suffering from food insecurity. The organization has a wide service area and at some point, FCC and our members may become involved in providing food for the pantry and/or packing meals, but not at this time.
- The Board is in the process of identifying non-profits that need a financial boost to address new projects or complete an unfinished one. Fifteen agencies have been invited to submit a grant request by mid-March. Faith in Action will review the requests to determine what agencies will be granted funds by June 2021.

##### Hopes:

- The last year has been especially difficult for non-profit agencies. They have been challenged by limited financial resources, restricted facilities, food insufficiency, online learning, mental health concerns, and more. The Board of Faith in Action asks for prayers from the Governing Board as we thoughtfully review the needs of the non-profits and determine how best to allocate available funds.

#### **Personnel Committee**

**Sharon Dobben, Chair**

##### Highlights:

- The Staff are currently doing Annual Performance Reviews.
- Travis Adams has officially assumed the role of Interim Assistant to the Pastor for Pastoral Care. He will be assuming the role for ten hours/week in addition to his role as Director of Youth Ministries.

#### **Nominating Committee**

**Terese Thrall, Chair**

##### Highlights:

- The Nominating Committee met virtually March 9 to determine candidates for the 15 open committee positions for 2021-22. Initial invitations to nominees are scheduled to go out the week of March 21.

##### Hopes:

- The committee hopes to fill vacancies in a timely fashion with candidates well-suited to each position.

**Board of Christian Education**  
**Rebecca Courington, Chair**

**Children's Ministries, Leslie Maxie**

Highlights:

- The kids have been enjoying their lent bundles that were delivered with a daily scratch off calendar and craft supplies. We have also had a lot of recorded Sunday school lessons in the past few rainy weeks.
- We are all meeting on the front lawn on Palm Sunday to do a little reenactment of Jesus's arrival to Jerusalem and I'm planning a short Easter time with children for worship on Easter Sunday.
- I'm also planning a drive in showing of Raya and the Last dragon for our kids (extending to the community if we have space) for the week of spring break.

Hopes:

- I'm trying to work through what Sunday school will look like going forward and how the kids will make the switch from front lawn to inside the building safely for classes.
- Also planning the 3rd grade Bible class (possibly for may) and considering VBS on the lawn (maybe for just our Sunday school families). Lots to consider and work out!

**Youth Ministries, Travis Adams**

No Report

**Adult Education, Jessica Groen**

Highlights:

- Trina's Sunday morning Memoir Writing class is off to a great start with many attendees on March 7.
- The February and March Discovery Book club discussions were excellent.
- Betsy and Julie's Wednesday Evening Bible Study has been a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon the upcoming sermon passage.
- We are so grateful to each person who takes time and preparation to lead class sessions. We are grateful for each adult who contributes with their attendance, preparation, and participation.
- We've affirmed a suggestion from staff leadership that the tentative April/May Sunday morning Bible study class taught by Travis will be moved to summer to allow for other events on the Sunday morning calendar and give him more ample time to cover the material.

**Weekday Preschool, Dallas Collins**

Highlights:

- The ART of PLAY registration opened at 9:00 February 23 and was full, 36 spots taken, the next day. We also have a 6-person waitlist as of 3/15/21
- 7 teachers have committed to teaching 4 mornings (1.5-hour sessions) a week for 8 weeks in April & May outdoors
- Logistical planning and brainstorming have continued, utilizing multiple locations on FCC property including: WPS playground, the front grass areas, ramp and Community House blacktop.
- Creative lesson planning has started with teachers at home, we will meet as a group 2-3 times in person prior to April 6 start date
- Many registration questions have come up for the Fall, paperwork will be available mid-April for the 2021-2022 school year

- Most teachers will be double vaccinated by April 6

Hopes:

- DRY WEATHER in April & May!

### **Properties Committee**

**Josh Grenard, Chair**

Highlights:

- The Properties Committee has been working closely with Worship & Arts to discuss future reopening planning, as well as in preparation of the sanctuary for Lenten reflection time.
- After examining potential cost-savings, we have decided to cancel our lawn-care contract and bring our lawn maintenance (as well as certain snow-removal responsibilities) in-house. Towards that end, we are in the process of purchasing a mower and related lawn maintenance equipment that will result in an overall savings even by the end of this calendar year.

Hopes:

- We are currently working to finalize scheduling of our next Properties Committee meeting along with Spring Cleanup on Wednesday 4/7 at 11:00am

### **Board of Worship & Arts**

**Donica VanVoorhees, Chair**

Highlights:

- The Board of Worship and Arts hosted a prayer and meditation time in the sanctuary during Lent, on Wednesdays from 9-11AM and 4:30-6:30PM. It was lightly attended, but members who took advantage of the time very much appreciated having the sanctuary open for prayer.
- David Rice contributed some beautiful photography, which is still hanging on the side walls of the sanctuary. The staff did an excellent job preparing the sanctuary and organizing sign-ups for the safety of our congregation. It was good practice and preparation for the full opening of the church, which will occur, with God's help, sometime in the future of 2021.

### **FCC Foundation**

**Lois Glasgow, President**

Highlights:

- The first quarter 2021 FCC support payment of \$16,222 from FCC Foundation was paid in March. No facility project costs were presented by FCC for reimbursement. The FCC Properties Committee is currently planning for FY 2021 facilities projects and FCCF will be included in this process as appropriate.
- The FCCF Investment Committee considered investment of The Clark Fund in the stock and bond market as meager returns are available from banking fund investments. Janet Bolton, Morgan Stanley FCCF financial advisor, assisted the Investment Committee in choosing a Morgan Stanley managed portfolio that will provide a return on Clark Fund asset while adhering to the parameters set out by the FCC F Board. This portfolio model was recommended by the Investment Committee to the FCCF Board. The portfolio model is designed in keeping with the goals of The Clark Fund to further the spiritual mission of the FCC Congregation and the Community.
- In consideration of the mission of Flossmoor Community Church to cherish diversity, FCCF chose a portfolio that is based on Sustainability. Morgan Stanley offers "Investments with Impact Portfolio Models" comprised of portfolios that consider Environment, Social and Government (ESG) priorities. FCCF chose one of these portfolio models that is based on the parameters set by the FCCF Board for risk and performance.

Hopes:

- Hopes for the Future are opportunities for the growth through earnings and contributions and programmatic use of the Clark Fund in support of furthering the spiritual life of the FCC Congregation and the Community.

“No Report”

- Board of Congregational Connections, Vanessa Richardson
- Finance Committee, Robert Norby
- Diaconate Board, Sue Durkin