

Governing Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 26, 2019 – 7:00 pm – FCC Family Room

2019: FCC's Year of Caring, Community, and Congregational Engagement

Members Present: Stephanie Byrd, Dana Dolan, Sharon Dobben, Theresa Gibbons, Linda Gilley, Rosanne Goodrich-Schutz, Esther Jenkins, Christian Kneeland, Betty Jo Norby, Vanessa Richardson, Tim Sullivan, Jennifer Wojcikowski

Staff: Pastor Fred Lyon, Jenny Sykes

Members Excused: Rick Hanzelin, Phyllis Royster, Chris Riedel

OPENING PRAYER (Rosanne Goodrich-Schutz)

JOYS & CONCERNS

Were shared

DEVOTION (Pastor Fred)

“Fixing It” exercise to move beyond a “fixing it” attitude to a “transformation” attitude

Questions considered were:

- Three words that describe our church are...
- An important characteristic about our church is...
- A time when we were most tested was...
- The thing I most appreciate about our church is...
- Something that’s never made sense to me about our church is...
- One thing I’ve always wondered about us is...
- Three things we must continue to do are...
- Three things we could stop doing are...

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from January 15, 2019

Approved with two corrections:

- TGIF Social for Parents of Teens will be at Dana Dolan’s house, not Chris Riedel’s
- Lois Glasgow, President of FCCF was present at the January Governing Board Meeting

TREASURER’S REPORT (Jenny Sykes in for Chris Riedel)

FCC’s operating fund is strong this year and we are currently in a good cash position. FCC Foundation will be holding their annual contribution until March. Jenny pointed out that regarding costs, the Diaconate is a slightly little over budget due to the high number of memorials we had in January. FCC pays those costs up front, but will be reimbursed. Also, music and licensing fees all come out in January, so Worship and Arts is a little over budget as well.

STAFF REPORT (Pastor Fred)

- Pastor Fred reported about his sabbatical, saying it gave him time to exercise, rest, relax, reading, and attend a conference in Portland about transformational ministry. Overall, he is refreshed and glad to be back.
- FCC is busy preparing for Lent. This year’s theme will be “We’ve Got to Go Through It.”

- Pastor Fred reminded Governing Board Members about the upcoming book signing and workshop by Pastor MaryAnn McKibben Dana. Pastor McKibben Dana will be signing her book, “God, Improv, and the Art of Living” at Bookies in Homewood from 5-7pm on Friday March 1st. She will then conduct a workshop at FCC Saturday, March 2nd from 9am to 2pm in the Sanctuary. Sunday, March 3rd, Pastor McKibben Dana will lead worship at 9:45, and an Adult Education Session at 11am.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Congregational Engagement (Dana Dolan and Vanessa Richardson)

Dana handed out a flyer with recommendations about how to invite a friend to FCC the second Sunday of each month – March 10th, April 14, May 12 – which are the 1st Sunday of Lent, Palm Sunday, and Mother’s Day. FCC will be testing this for 3 months to measure its success. Dana and Vanessa discussed 4 simple ways to invite a friend:

- 1) Forward the weekly church email newsletter to a friend with a personal note
- 2) Invite a friend or neighbor the next time you see them, or give them a call
- 3) Take a “Welcome Neighbor” door hanger (new outreach piece), available in the Gathering Space and write a personal note
- 4) Share the “Bring a Friend to Church Sunday” church event

Board of Outreach Ministries Report (Esther Jenkins)

Esther reported on upcoming Outreach Grants:

- Youth ministries asked for money for \$3,700 for their work trip, June 8-15 to Virginia.
 - **Action Item:** to give a grant to Youth Ministries for a maximum of \$3,700, but possibly less
- Request for \$1,000 grant for April 13th *South Suburban Diversity Dinner & Discussions* at Rich South High School
 - **Action Item:** provide a grant of \$500, and purchase 30 tickets to the event to help increase attendance and diversity. FCC will have sign-up sheets in the church and mention in the Narthex that tickets are available. The date is Saturday, April 13th.

Motion was made to approve both action items. Motion carried

March 17, Governing Board PADs Dinner (Theresa Gibbons)

Governing Board Members discussed whether or not the Governing Board should cook, or should buy dinner collectively. All agreed that we should do what we did last time, which was buy dinner and beverages. Theresa will organize it and Governing Board members are to contribute \$20, and sign up if able to help that day. Shifts will consist of set up from 5:45-6:15 p.m. and serving dinner/cleanup from 6:15-7:30 p.m.

Theresa also asked for prayers for the Nominating Committee, which is still seeking to fill several positions.

Governing Board Members took a moment to congratulate Pastor Fred on his 35th anniversary of being ordained.

Pastor Fred expressed gratitude to FCC staff for all they did when he was out on his sabbatical, like facilitating events such as Don Jones’ memorial services.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ash Wednesday, Worship Service – March 6 – 7:30 pm

- Bring a Friend to Church Sunday – March 10 – 9:45 am
- Governing Board PADS Dinner – March 17
- Next GB Meeting – Tuesday, March 19 – 7:00 pm
- Betsy Hanzelin Sabbatical – through March 24

CLOSING PRAYER (Dana Dolan)

ADJOURN

Meeting was ended at 8:16pm.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Highlights

- Gathered nomination names and suggestions from the congregation
- Contacted board chairs for updates on who is staying on
- Nominating retreat took place on March 10
- First round letters will go out this week

Hopes

That the committees first choices make the decision to commit to helping the church further its vision
 That more names will come forth to fill in the missing pieces
 That we will have a full slate for the board to vote on by May

Submitted by Theresa Gibbons, Chair

**Report of the Board of Outreach Ministries
 To the Governing Board
 March 19, 2019**

Highlights

BOM will do an Adult Ed session on April 7. The session, tentatively titled “An Outreach Forum on How You Help and Want to Help”, will invite church members to talk about the volunteer work that they do and the kinds of activities and organizations they would like for Outreach to support.

BOM agreed to share the Easter Offering with Weekday Preschool Scholarships (WPS) and Project HO.O.D., an organization on the southside of Chicago working to reduce violence by building communities and developing community residents.

We continue to try to get folks to sign up for the Diversity Dinner on April 13, and for which BOM is providing free tickets.

Action Items

Outreach seeks GB approval of our recommendations for the Easter Offering:

- **FCC Weekday Preschool Scholarships**
Over the past few years there has been dramatic increase in the need for scholarships from families in our community wishing to send their child to FCC Preschool. Families pay what they can, and Preschool uses a portion of its budget to fund scholarships, but the need is often greater than the school is able to provide. Weekday Preschool, which has been around for 60 years, is a wonderful opportunity for children to learn and grow. Weekday Preschool Scholarships increase the number of families that can participate in this wonderful program and ensure that as many children as possible can get off to a strong start in their education.
(www.fccweekdaypreschool.com)
- **Project H.O.O.D.**
After sleeping on the roof of an abandoned motel for 94 days to bring attention to gun violence on the southside of Chicago, Reverend Corey Brooks started Project H.O.O.D. with the vision of "ending violence and building communities, one neighborhood at a time." The organization focuses on the Englewood and Woodlawn communities, which rank among the most violent in Chicago. Project H.O.O.D.'s programs include free summer camp for neighborhood children, life skills and a job readiness programs for court involved youth, mentoring programs for boys and girls, pre-apprenticeship training in carpentry, and entrepreneurial training and workshops. Project H.O.O.D. is working to build a community center to house their current and future programs. (www.projecthood.org)

Submitted by Esther Jenkins, chair

**Report of the Focus Elder
To the Governing Board
March 19, 2019**

Updates: for Women Helping Women Seminar on 3/24/19 @ 11:00 am

- 02/19/19: Met with Gena Jones to discuss topics for meeting.
- Seminar Announcement Appeared in March Narthex
- 03/10/19: Seminar announcement appeared in Faith Family Matters
- 03/11/19: FCC Facebook Page posted the seminar

Submitted by Rosanne Schutz, focus elder

**Report of the Board of Christian Education
To the Governing Board
March 19, 2019**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Highlights:

- We had the largest turn out ever for WooHOO Wednesday in March! About 40 kids came to build leprechaun traps and was double what I had expected so I asked the community for some help collecting shoe boxes! They were amazing! I got way more shoe boxes than I needed and was even able to save some for next year!
- The youth group taught Sunday school for 3 weeks in March and did an excellent job! The kids really connected and learned their lessons in a different and exciting way!

- We gave out Bibles to 4 extremely hard-working kids as well! They studied hard and really enjoyed their Bible class! I worked with Betsy to create a new program and Nils and Jess really brought it to life! We met after to discuss what worked and what didn't and are all set for next year's students!

Hopes:

- Hoping WooHOO for April will be a huge success as well, we will be decorating Easter Eggs!
- We have Spring Sing for the kids and their parents on April 7th. The kids have been practicing and I am hoping for the parents to sing a little surprise song for the kids 😊 We'll see what kind of response I get:-)
- Easter is coming up and I am getting ready! Our very own Bill McCormick will be dressing up as the Easter Bunny for the kids! He is super excited! I will be asking the kids to pick one gently used toy from home to donate to the south suburban toys for kids. I am hoping the kids learn just a little bit that they can help others too:-) And this way the hunt isn't just "gimme gimme gimme" 😊
- I am looking for candy donations from the congregation, I will have a box in my office for people to leave candy.

WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL

Waiting on report

YOUTH MINISTRIES

- Quest just finished their 3-week teaching rotation with Sunday School and LOVED it! They had a great time leading (and in some cases participating in the lessons) with the kids. This is the second year in a row we've done this and our youth seem to love it. We're hoping to continue this tradition!
- Tribes had a great breakfast outing on March 10th to Kingsberry Waffle House. It's always great to see the youth have a fun morning out and share a meal.
- Big Room on March 17th focused on Lent and challenged our youth to think about what they want to take on in observance of this liturgical season.
- The Work Trip Team continues to fundraise for their trip. As our Wall-O-Money fundraiser comes to an end, we will be working on some new fundraising projects. Stay tuned!

What we have coming up:

- SPRING BREAK! Youth Group will not meet March 24th & 31st. (Leadership Team also will not meet March 20th & 27th).
- YM's last Sunday Night Group of the year will be Sunday, April 7th.
- There is no Youth Group on Sunday April 21st in observance of Easter.
- I am taking a scouting trip to Staunton, VA April 22-26th to work out details for the work trip there. I'll be meeting with our Habitat for Humanity coordinator, checking out the space where we will be staying and working out contacts with other agencies we'll be working with.
- Quest Spring Retreat is April 26-28th at Pilgrim Park.
- With Easter being so late this year, including Big Room on 3/17, we only have 5 more Sunday meetings, so this year is quickly wrapping up. They seem to go by faster every year! Let me know if you need more details about anything we're working on.

ADULT EDUCATION

- Our One-Book-One-Church February Study on Microaggressions using Claudia Rankine's *Citizen* and Ijeoma Oluo's *So You Want to Talk About Race* was well received with evaluation sheets returned from over 15 participants rating it highly. There were 30 participants with some able to attend all four

sessions and some only able to attend one or two. The group is interested in working for racial justice and plan to further explore the topic with Phil Royster next year in Adult Ed.

- While it was a church-wide program and not entirely Adult Ed, we must comment on how much the congregation and the community loved Mary Ann McKibben Dana's preaching, teaching, leading a workshop, and speaking and signing books at Bookies' store in Homewood. Pastor Dana's warmth, intelligence, and ability to communicate and teach was a winning combination. Many from outside our church attended the sessions so it was also good community outreach. The H-F Chronicle published the entire article about Ms. Dana and the events in their online edition.
- We begin a Bible Study using Rachel Held Evans' *Inspired* as our text for following the assigned scripture lessons for each week. The class led by Jessica Groen and Trina Hayes will run from March 17 through May 5 at 11 a.m. on Sundays in the Family Room. We will meet on Wednesday, April 24 at 7 p.m. instead of meeting on Easter Sunday.

Submitted by Linda Gilley, chair

**Report of the Diaconate Board
To the Governing Board
March 19, 2019**

Highlights

- Accomplished in the past month: completed year end summary of services rendered from August to December 31, 2019.
- Meals provided- forty-five (45)
- Cards sent- thirty-five (35)
- Transportation- five (5) rides to medical related appointments
- Phone calls- multiple calls to ten (10) members
- Memorials services-nine (9)
- Visitation- eighteen (18) on visitation roster with 4 visits completed, four(4) requested to be removed from the roster, multiple calls made with no response received (thirteen/13). Phone roster is being reviewed and updated to reflect current contact numbers.
- Shawl ministry- four (4) shawls have been distributed. Others will be shared
 - pending completion of a current needs list.
- Weekly floral deliveries- thirty- two (32) plus Christmas Poinsettia deliveries.
- Discussed at the most recent meeting: the opportunity to provide additional visitation support during this period when we are without an associate pastor and Betsy is on leave. Considering covering one (1) more day a week.
- From the most recent meeting
- From earlier meetings that are still to be accomplished: File of Life Presentation. Bonnie Miller has obtained sample packets for distribution for the FCC Fire Department. Development of an education session or narthex display are pending.

Submitted by Phyliss M. Royster, chair

“No Report” submitted

Lay Ministries, Vanessa Richardson
Congregational Life, Betty Jo Norby