

Flossmoor Community Church

Meeting Minutes from the

April 27, 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, Josh Grenard, Kenny Maxie, Kris McManus, Bob Norby, Vanessa Richardson, Jackie Riffice, Terese Thrall, Donica Van Voorhees*

The following FCC Staff Members were present: *Betsy Hanzelin, Pastor Julie Van Til*

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

Opening Prayer

The opening prayer was shared by Bob Norby.

Approval of Minutes

Anna Carvalho called for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 23, 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

Pastor/Head of Staff Report

Pastor Julie Van Till informed the GB that the FCC Staff has undergone their annual reviews. She stated that she “really enjoyed” the reviews and that she values the Staff’s honesty. Her own review is upcoming.

Pastor Julie is continuing to build relationships through Pastoral Care. She expressed that will be exploring Congregational processes over the next few months.

Treasurer’s Report

Bob Norby stated that \$75,323.00 in pledges were collected in March of this year and that, to date, we are \$26,000.00 above our budgeted pledge amount. (These numbers are partly due to some members paying annual pledges in full). The March 2021 pledge numbers are \$4700.00 above where they were at this time in 2020. Our total amount of 2021 pledges is \$548,000.00 with 135 pledge units. FCC’s unrestricted cash, assuming the acquisition of our second PPP loan, is \$222,227.00.

Devotional

(The notes of the Devotional section of our meeting were taken, verbatim, from its agenda. The following content was discussed, in depth, by the Governing Board members).

Individual journeys: Kendi describes his evolution of thought, from his earliest “otherizing” of people of color to ultimately focusing on identification and revision of racist policies. At FCC how do we ensure that we are each

given the space to make our own journeys? Can we love each other as we are, already enfolded in grace? What does that look like?

1. Diversity of beliefs and experiences: Kendi's journey also illustrates the diversity of opinion about definitions, strategies, and obligations. In our own congregation there are generational, regional, and personal differences in:
 - a. how racism has been experienced,
 - b. how we have implicitly or explicitly perpetuated it,
 - c. what personal damage it has caused, and
 - d. what strategies we have developed to endure, challenge, or overcome it.

How will we create a forum for respectful discussion that honors individual truths, while assembling those truths to create a more comprehensive picture of Truth? Are there core ideas that we should agree on?

2. Institutionalizing our calling: We are called to address racism because:
 - a. Jesus challenged systemic oppression,
 - b. Eradication of racism requires persistent effort across our culture,
 - c. Racism is a top-of-mind issue locally and can be expected to remain so for the foreseeable future.

Since this issue will be core to our ability to serve, how should we institutionalize our efforts and continue to equip ourselves – and, particularly, our leadership - going forward?

3. Ministering to hurt: We have begun to discuss racism openly. We have heard personal testimonies. Such self-revelation can move us toward more authentic relationships. Yet these deeper conversations can also trigger profound places of hurt that will require individual and collective skills we haven't yet developed. How can we stand witness to profound hurt? How can we build our capacity to engage in challenging conversations that maintain a loving culture, hold people in love regardless of their current understanding or skills, sit with unfinished business when necessary, yet ultimately not shy away from conversations that need to be had?
4. Two versions of the vision: How do we benefit from building a society in which all are fully embraced? Discuss the difference between being anti-racist and building a "beloved community" and whether/why both visions are necessary.

New Business

Worship and Arts (Josh Grenard)

A discussion was held by the Board to whether the FCC opening plan should be approved. Approve reopening plan. Josh presented the plan in Donica's absence. He stated that the Worship and Arts committee has held three meetings on the subject on reopening. The committee has taken what it has learned from other churches who have reopened to make a determination on how the process will affect FCC. Josh explained that the Church's infrastructure (e.g. sound, audio/visual, lighting, etc.) is being reviewed to ensure that our soft openings are optimal. Flossmoor Community Church members will be asked to sign a COVID-19 waiver, available on EventBrite, before they can attend in-person services. Betsy stated that members will be in the building for no longer than one hour. The Church will continue to

monitor CDC recommendations to determine if the number of members allowed in the Sanctuary can increase.

A motion was called to approve the reopening plan. The GB voted unanimously to approve the plan.

A motion was also called to approve Donica's distributed protocols. The GB voted unanimously to approve the distributed protocols.

Josh stated that Donica has been exceptional in managing the reopening.

Faith in Action (Jackie Riffice)

The Board met last month to discuss the distribution of grant funds to several agencies (*Bethel Facility, You Matter 2, Jones, Respond Now, Restoration Ministries, SSFS*). Jackie provided an overview of each agency and how the requested funds will assist them in doing their work. The total amount requested is \$19050.00. A motion to approve the funds was called for and approved by the GB.

Bob asked about the current status of South Suburban PADS. Jackie stated that PADS is investigating a change in their model because of COVID-19. The PADS program for FCC and other churches is currently on hold. Our Church has not received responses to our most recent inquiries as to how PADS is to proceed in the future.

Anna stated that she has been in conversation with Jay Readey about the Harvey Project.

Betsy stated we need to discuss the proposed amendments to the by-laws of FCC. These amendments concern virtual meetings and hybrid services.

Anna called for a motion on the acceptance of the amendments to the by-laws. The motion carried.

Old Business

No Old Business was presented during this meeting.

Announcements

A review of the 2021 - 2022 strategic plans, of the Board and individual FCC committees, is to be conducted in May of this year. Recommendations from these groups, will be provided to the Congregation in the form of a report. The Governing Board is to receive a copy of this report one week prior to its next meeting.

Closing Prayer

The closing prayer was shared by Anna Carvalho.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 21:07.

Respectfully Submitted, Felton Maxie, Governing Board Secretary