

Flossmoor Community Church

Governing Board Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2021 -- 7:30 PM via Zoom

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 19:31.

II. Roll call

The following FCC Governing Board (GB, Board) members were present: ***Anna Carvalho, Rebecca Courington, Sharon Dobben, Susan Durkin, Josh Grenard, Kenny Maxie, Kris McManus, 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.

III. Opening prayer

The opening prayer was shared by Susan Durkin.

IV. Devotional

Pastor Julie expressed concern for the National Guard troops being called in for duty around the nation. Her concern also stemmed from the necessity of having to have National Guard troops on duty.

She suggested that hope remains strong for our nation as a friend of hers, who ran for office in a heavily-Republican district in Michigan, received 40% of its votes. Her friend's message was one of unity.

Pastor Julie stated that the message of Christ is that love overcomes evil and that love calls us to act. The church will continue to do the work of justice through its anti-racism efforts.

V. Approval of minutes from previous meeting

Anna called for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 2020 meeting. After a "second" from several board members, the minutes were unanimously approved.

VI. Committee reports

a) Treasurer's Report -- Jamie Ford

Anna asked Jamie to present Treasurer Bob Norby's report as he was not present for this meeting. Jamie stated that the finance committee has most of its numbers for the month of December 2020. (These numbers, including the 2020 Challenge, have not changed significantly since the FCC GB budget consideration meeting which occurred the previous week).

The loan information for FCC's second PPP has been submitted.

Anna made a motion to accept Bob's report. The report's acceptance was approved by the Governing Board.

b) **Pastor's Report -- Julie Van Til**

Pastor Julie began her report by stating that Lent was soon to begin. Lent packets will be made available for all who wish to receive them.

Board of Worship & the Arts Chair, Donica Van Voorhees, was asked to speak about FCC's infrastructure updates. Donica stated that the installation of equipment (e.g. routers, cabling, etc.) has begun. She also stated that her committee is considering the allowance of small groups (10 individuals) into the sanctuary during Lent.

Flossmoor Community Church will fly the Pan-African flag during the month of February. Jamie suggested that the flying of this flag, during significant African-American events (e.g. MLK day), should be considered.

Pastor Julie expressed gratitude for Youth Ministries Director, Rev. Travis Adams's contributions to Pastoral Care.

VII. New business

Stewardship Chair Kris McManus stated that her committee continues to make calls to those who have historically pledged. She informed the GB that several of these members are moving and/or spending significant time away from FCC. To date, 82% of pledge numbers have been reached.

Anna called for a motion to approve the 2021 FCC budget. The budget was unanimously approved by the Board.

VIII. Old business

Betsy stated that the FCC nominating season was approaching. She will be sending email messages to Board and Committee Chairs to determine if new committee members are needed.

IX. Announcements

No new announcements were made at this meeting.

X. Closing prayer

The closing prayer was shared by Terese Thrall.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 20:24.

Addendum

During the Devotional, those present in the meeting asked for prayers for the following:

- A respect for, and the equal application of, the laws of our nation as the law is the common ground for our citizens
- Family, friends, elderly...everyone
- Healthcare workers
- The rediscovery of positive thinking
- The wide distribution of COVID-19 vaccination (for those who would take it)

Pastor Julie also fielded comments/questions, during the Devotional, on the anti-racism efforts of the church. These comments/questions included:

- The enthusiasm of young neighbors who were enthralled with this past Sunday's worship and class on racism.
- The role of media coverage in providing an idea of what divides us.
- There is a lack of understanding of the African-American experience. History often glosses over the African-American experience in this country.
- There was appreciation for the efforts in advancing the church's message of anti-racism.
- The question was asked, "Why are there some who wish to remain ignorant of the things that would make this country better?
- The law should be respected. The law should be applied equally to all citizens.

Board and Committee Reports to the Governing Board

February 2021

Board of Faith in Action

Jackie Riffice, Chair

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Board of Faith in Action mindfully considered what it is we are called to do as a board at FCC. The result was an affirmation of our role, purpose, and intent as a body called to support outreach efforts. This was documented into a formal statement called "The Purpose and Intent of the Board of Faith in Action". To ensure that this and future boards have a cornerstone from which to build both charity and self-sufficiency to those we serve, we will ask the Governing Board to affirm and acknowledge this document.
- We identified two local agencies as the recipients of the 2021 Easter Offering. They are South Suburban Family Shelter and Restoration Ministries.
- The webpage for FIA needs to be updated and that will soon be underway. We want to include an updated list of local non-profit websites and their wish lists so that congregants can provide monetary and in-kind items should they so desire. The congregation will receive a request to provide us with any non-profit they would like to see added to the list.
- We welcomed two new members to FIA – Isabel Simard and Megan Adams (who will also serve as our personal pet whisperer)

HOPES

- We have some bright ideas that we would like to bring to fruition. They will equip our congregation with outreach opportunities and highlight local organizations that we think you should know about.

Board of Worship & Arts

Donica Van Voorhees, Chair

HIGHLIGHTS AND HOPES

- Discussed highlights from Advent/Christmas
- Supported Pastor Julie's idea for "drive-by" Ash Wednesday
- Finalized plans for opening the sanctuary on Wednesdays during Lent

Finance Committee

Bob Norby, Chair

- Completed 2021 Budget process receiving Governing Board approval on January 19 and church membership approval during the January 24 Meeting of the Congregation.
- SBA Payroll Protection Program Second Draw (PPP#2) application was approved in the amount of \$118,500. Funds were deposited in the church bank account at Old Second Bank on February 1st. Repayment terms of the loan are similar to the PPP#1 forgiveness loan last year. Actual terms for loan forgiveness are still being drafted by the SBA.

Board of Christian Education

Rebecca Courington, Chair

Children's Ministry, Leslie Maxie

Highlights:

- This month was super cold! The kids put together an awesome video about racism and being the future 😊
- We got outside and enjoyed some Sunday school time in the snow. The kids really enjoyed themselves!
- Kids got "Jesus Love Me" bags for Valentine's day and also a Lent/Easter bag so they can follow the lent calendar for the next weeks.

Hopes:

- Putting together a story time for Black History month. Hoping it goes well and is well attended.
- Working on Lent activities and videos to engage families.
- Hoping to get some weather to get the kids outside!

Youth Ministry, Travis Adams

Highlights:

- This month we are excited to resume meeting with our youth following our month-long dedication to the "FCC talks about Racism" program. Multiple students joined the service and the dialogues to provide testimony to their vision of an anti-racism community while also assisting in presenting material in the larger congregational classes. We are eternally grateful for the opportunity to participate in such matters and have gleaned much from the experience.

Hopes:

- Throughout February, we shall be spending the Sunday School hour establishing our new "Micro-crews." These small groups of 3-5 students shall serve as the primary way we engage in Bible study and prayer activities for the remainder of the season. We hope to eventually translate these online meetings into physical events in various church members' homes once health and safety restrictions permit. We do not have a definite start date but optimistically anticipate the wait shall not prove much longer.

Adult Education, Jessica Groen

Highlights:

- So much appreciation to Betsy for keeping the website formatted and filled with information on the FCC Adult Education classes that will be held through Zoom in coming months.

Hopes:

- Looking forward to the classes provided by Betsy, Trina, Julie, and Travis. We are thankful for their willingness to lead, prepare and host these discussions.

Weekday Preschool, Dallas Collins

Highlights:

- The Winter gave me time to reflect and be creative for a Spring program, The ART of PLAY. The initial stages of planning for Fall return of in-person indoor learning. Speaking with each teacher, gauging their comfort levels and interest in both the Spring program and beyond at WPS.

Hopes:

- I'm happy to offer an outdoor experience to our preschool age community! We recognize families are seeking opportunities to safely provide socialization, play and fun for this age group. Our teachers are excited to share their passion for learning in a safe environment to enrich children's lives at FCC Weekday- OUTDOORS!
 - The total cost for The ART of PLAY is \$450 for all 8 weeks (\$100 deposit at sign up, \$175 due April 6, \$175 due May 4.)
 - 1.5 hour sessions, 4 days a week for 8 weeks, Tuesdays through Fridays mornings
 - Small teacher to child ratio, groups of 6 kids per adult (mixed age groups)
 - Staggered drop off/pick up times.
 - An all-outdoor experience, utilizing multiple FCC property locations: Weekday playground, FCC ramp, grass areas & FCC Community House black top. A variety of activities, songs, crafts and exploring the outdoors will happen every day!
 - We will remain in session in light rain with appropriate outdoor gear. The Art of Play will be canceled if thunder & lightening are present or forecasted.
 - Emergency bathroom use only; children are encouraged to use the potty before coming to limit indoor time
 - Snack will not be served, small water bottles will be available if necessary.
 - All participants are required to be masked and will be given individual bagged supplies when necessary for participation.
- Additionally, registration for the 2021-2022 FCC Weekday Preschool school year will begin mid-April, stay tuned!

Properties Committee

Josh Grenard, Chair

Highlights

- In wonderful news, as this update is being written, finalization of installation and programming of our \$40,000+ IT and network infrastructure upgrades is underway!! As you may remember, this project will allow FCC to simulcast worship services, funerals, concerts, and other events held in the Sanctuary. Once we are able to return to the building safely for worship, we will also have the capability to continue to livestream the service to those that are unable to attend, as well as to stream programs for Christian Education opportunities and provide for increased use of the building by boards/committees and various outside groups, potentially also increasing our revenue possibilities.
- A number of improvements have also been made to the Community House, to include significant plaster repairs and undertaking the various painting/cosmetic upgrades necessary to begin renting the space for public events and use as soon as COVID-related restrictions permit.

Hopes

- We continue to look for additional revenue opportunities once COVID-restrictions are relaxed/as approved by the GB.
- As reopening plans are being discussed, the Properties Committee anticipates and welcomes the opportunity to work with Worship & Arts to plan and see through the various stages of reopening to (hopefully) come in the next few months and to support these efforts as completely as possible.

Greetings, all. I just wanted to update you on pledges that we've received since last meeting. As of February 19, we have received pledges from 130 pledging units/families totallin \$529,220. This is an increase of over \$10k since we last met. The Finance Committee's 2021 budget lists \$530,000 in pledge collections. Stewardship has not met in February, as we are in a holding pattern until church and the preschool can re-open again. We just don't feel we can justify asking people for more in their pledges when we are not meeting in person at all. When we are able to return to in-person worship and programs, we will reconsider the possibility of asking the preschool families and PADS volunteers. and possibly other groups who use our facilities (Ivy League, etc) for a voluntary, one-time gift to FCC.

Board of Diaconate
Sue Durkin, Chair

Highlights

- Travis Adams as Interim Assistant to the Pastor for Pastoral Care has been phoning the individuals listed on our Web of Care. Positive responses to his calls have been relayed to the Diaconate. We are grateful for his dedicated service to our faith family and his support of the Diaconate.
- The Diaconate has been in discussion with David Carvalho, who has offered technological support to church members in obtaining appointments for COVID vaccinations. This project is in the early stages, but Diaconate is helping by identifying those who need this help and offering transportation once an appointment is secured.
- Three members of the Diaconate have terms ending in June 2021.
 - Sis Flor, Roberta Sergeant and Barbara Johnson have all volunteered to serve on the Diaconate for an additional three years. So we have no vacancies to fill. The Board thanks these wonderful ladies for their continued service to FCC.
- The Diaconate has volunteered to deliver the Lenten Devotional Materials to members during this time of separation and inclement weather.
- The Diaconate has provided meals to the Smith family during this difficult period of health challenges and bereavement.

Hopes

- The Diaconate hopes to expand assistance for vaccinations as this project gets underway.
- The Diaconate continues to explore new ways to serve the needs of the congregation during this pandemic.

NO REPORT

Personnel, Sharon Dobben
Nominating, Terese Thrall
Congregational Connections, Vanessa Richardson

