



Minutes of the Governing Board  
Tuesday, October 25, 2022 - 7:00 pm – Family Room

**Present:** Janet Bolton (GB Chair), Chris Dolan, Jeff Groen, Jackie Riffice, Mike Rogers, Shari Sweeney, Donica Van Voorhees, Bradley Byrd, Larry Kane

**Absent:** Karen Cheung, Lois Glasgow

**Staff Present:** Julie Van Til, Betsy Hanzelin, Jamie Ford

Meeting was called to order by Janet Bolton at 7:03 pm. Julie Van Til opened with a conversation and prayer around the need to take a “personal sabbath” to restore your spiritual and mental energy.

**Following this discussion, each Governing Board member was asked to provide a 2-minute highlight summary of activities centered around their board/function:**

- Jackie Riffice (Faith in Action) indicated that her committee is focusing on the “Green Together” event which will occur on October 29, 2022. In addition, the committee is increasing the awareness of the upcoming Forest Preserve Referendum that will be considered as part of Election Day on November 8, 2022. Other initiatives and conversations the committee is having center around low-cost holiday gift wrapping and the “Making Sustainable Attainable” initiative. Finally, Jackie discussed some of the needs of Bethel Community Church and indicated the committee will consider ways it might be able to assist this church.
- Mike Rogers (Personnel) mentioned that the celebration for Betsy Hanzelin’s 30 years of service at the church went very well. The committee is getting back on schedule with staff annual reviews and is continuing to review the policies and practices manual. The committee is planning to circulate an updated draft policies and practices manual for GB review at the next meeting along with budget recommendations.
- Donica Van Voorhees (Worship and Arts) stated that her committee discussed the possibility of restoring the passing of the plate during church service. She also indicated that the usher teams were full again. Finally, planning for the Christmas services is in progress.
- Shari Sweeney (Diaconate) enjoyed being able to offer a ministry moment for Diaconate during church service a couple of weeks ago and mentioned that she had 5 volunteers sign-up to help with meal delivery to the sick and shut in. The committee will continue to recruit more volunteers to help support the various activities of the Diaconate ministry. Shari also said that several Diaconate board members met with Pastor Dawnn to hear and discuss her vision and plans as it related to congregational and community outreach and service.
- Chris Dolan (Stewardship) said that the campaign has kicked off and that Commitment Sunday was approaching on November 6, 2022. Chris asked the Governing Board members how the campaign theme “You Belong Here” is resonating with them. Chris also expressed gratitude for the support the staff and committee members are providing as Commitment Sunday approaches.
- Larry Kane (Congregational Connections) indicated that the Good Gourd event in mid-October was very successful and he was thankful for the support that the event received from the Governing Board members and the congregation and community in general. Upcoming events include Bring Your Own Bottle Bingo on November 4th and Christmas Movie Trivia Night.
- Janet Bolton (Chair) mentioned that she has been impressed by Governing Board member participation in the various events that the church has sponsored and facilitated.

**Pastor Julie Report:**

Pastor Julie stated that the church has been intentional during the month of October to have an event after worship service every single week to help facilitate adult Christian education. Pastor Julie also discussed her involvement in

outside denominational meetings and the benefit that those meetings have provided as they allow her to participate in discussions with church leaders throughout the country who are wrestling with the task of how to provide uplifting spiritual enrichment to their congregations who are also dealing with a variety of societal challenges. For Advent, the church will focus on a series from Sanctified Art titled "From Generation to Generation" that is intended to remind us of the long faithfulness of God and God's people over time. Julie stated that there is continued preparation and emphasis on the upcoming November 6<sup>th</sup> Commitment Sunday service.

### **General Meeting:**

- There was a motion to approve the minutes from the September 27<sup>th</sup> Governing Board meeting and the motion was seconded. Prior to the vote to approve the minutes, the motion was amended by Mike Rogers who noted a correction to the minutes in reference to the FCC Employee Policies and Practices Manual and then the minutes were approved.
- Jeff Groen provided the Treasurer's Report for the period ended 9/30/22 and mentioned that pledge collections for September were approximately \$50,000 which was a strong month and that year-to-date pledge collections were approximately 105% of budgeted pledges. Jeff stated that while plate collections are behind YTD forecasts, the shortfall is more than offset by higher than forecasted Sharing Fees which have exceeded budget by approximately 50%, or \$16,000, through 9/30/22. Expenses are tracking plan except for moderately higher utility expenses.

There was a question from Pastor Julie around what are considered plate offerings since we have not been passing the plate during services. Jeff and Jamie responded that plate collections are donations submitted in boxes located in the Narthex during church service as well as checks that are sent in the mail that that have not been designated as pledges.

Jeff concluded that Finance Committee is in the process of planning for the budget for the 2023 calendar year. There was a motion to approve the report and seconded and the report was approved.

- Janet Bolton commented on the Incident Report which resulted in a communication to the congregation after the last Governing Board meeting. In addition, the incident(s) were documented along with actions taken per FCC policies and procedures and were archived by the Personnel Committee. Mike Rogers indicated that a sub-committee was planning to further review policies dealing with matters of church visitor safety/security to determine if there was a need for further updates. As part of this discussion, Jamie Ford mentioned that committee members who need to access the building during the week have committee specific security codes for church access. In addition, Jamie responded to a question regarding the use of security cameras installed at the church to help survey the property.
- From a new business perspective, Jamie Ford provided an overview of various organizations that are using FCC properties which include the following: FCC Boards and Committees, Alcoholics Anonymous, Girl Scouts, The Philanthropic Educational Organization Group, You Matter 2, the Center for Food Equity and Medicine, Khesed Wellness, and Ivy League Child Care. Jamie stated that throughout the year, the facilities are used for weddings and memorials and there are occasional uses of the sanctuary by outside groups for musical performances and occasional uses of the kitchen facilities. Jamie mentioned that the church was working with a wedding planning service to expand the church's wedding service offerings in 2023. After Jamie's summary, the Governing Board members took a brief tour of some of the church offices and classrooms.

Jeff Groen provided a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Minutes submitted by Bradley Byrd, Secretary