

Flossmoor Community Church Minutes from the 08/10/2021 Special Governing Board Meeting



This **Special Meeting** of the Governing Board (GB, Board) was called to address the needs of the FCC Staff.

GB Members in Attendance: Anna Carvalho, Rebecca Courington, Susan Durkin, Larry Kane, Kenny Maxie, Kris McManus, Jackie Riffice, Michael Rogers, Terese Thrall, Donica Van Voorhees

Absent but Missed: Bob Norby, Josh Grenard

FCC Staff in Attendance: Jamie Ford, Betsy Hanzelin, Pastor Julie Van Til

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM.

Opening Prayer

Pastor Julie shared the opening prayer.

General Comments -- Pastor Julie

In her comments, Pastor Julie extolled the benefits of being vaccinated for COVID-19. She also mentioned the efforts that she has been taking to ensure that she and the Staff are “on the same page.” She thanked the members of the GB for attending the meeting.

Pastor Julie solicited the opinions of the GB on an official new start time (10:00 AM) for Sunday services at FCC. During the discussion, the following question was asked: “When will the social time begin?” A time of 11:10 AM was suggested.

A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to officially start Sunday Church services at 10:00 AM.

Regarding the Children’s Ministry, Pastor Julie stated that she has received feedback from FCC parents indicating that they don’t want to bring their children into the Sanctuary for Church services.

The guidance of the CDC is employed in decisions surrounding our gatherings. Currently, those persons present on the Sanctuary stage, during Church activities, are to be masked and/or vaccinated. Those who are not vaccinated must wear their masks at all times. There are limitations on singing.

Julie solicited feedback on the full opening procedure for the church. This resulted in the following comments and questions:

- “What are our values around this challenge (of fully opening)?”

- It was suggested that inquiring about the vaccination statuses of Church attendees could provide valuable information in the decision to fully reopen. "We may discover that a great majority of the attendees are vaccinated."
- A statement was made that we should determine who are the most vulnerable groups (e.g. the elderly, children, etc.) attending. After learning this information, "We should try to protect as many [people in these groups] as we can."
- "Are we going to continue streaming our services? Pastor Julie stated that streaming services will continue. She also mentioned that services are now live streamed via YouTube. She acknowledged that the new platform does not have the "fellowship-like feelings" of Zoom.
- "Are we okay to sing?" The response to this is that singing is okay, while wearing masks, if 80% of participants are vaccinated.
- It was suggested that don't want to risk alienating attendees by asking them to reveal their vaccination statuses.
- It was suggested that a poll of attendee vaccination status could be done anonymously by sending surveys to those people who are checked in for Sunday Worship.

Children's Worship and Education

As alluded to earlier, FCC families were polled about the possibility of keeping their children in the Sanctuary during. In the responses received, all but one of the families were of the opinion that children should not be indoors for worship.

The message of worship for our children will mirror that of the adults (i.e. it will follow the Narrative Lectionary). As a result of this, adult volunteers, assisting with children's worship, will receive the same understanding of the message despite not being present in the Sanctuary.

Children's worship will consist of two groups:

1. Age 3 – Kindergarten
2. 1st grade – 3rd grade

- It should be noted that Children's Worship will now be conducted concurrently with the Sunday worship service.
- Singing is to be a part of the Sunday School curriculum.
- FCC will commit funding for child care service during Sunday worship.
- Children from 6th – 12th grades will have Youth Groups on Sunday evenings, from 6:30 – 8 pm.

The GB voted unanimously on the issue of making the changes proposed by the FCC staff.

FCC will be moving ahead with our Appreciative Inquiry event. Its theme is "Tangibly radiating Christ's love in our diverse neighborhood." Susan inquired about the time-frame of the meeting. (Friday, 10/1 Dinner at 5 pm, Session from 6-8:30 pm; Saturday, 10/2, 10 am – 2:15 pm; Sunday, 10/3 from 1-4 pm)

New Business

- Michael Rogers, who chairs the Personnel committee, stated that he is honored to be a part of the FCC Governing Board.
- Michael informed the Board that Vonda Hardesty (our organist/pianist) will be resigning from the Church on 08/29/2021. He also mentioned that Mike Grogan will be retiring 09/18/2021.
- These announcements will be in the next FCC email Blast.
- Pastor Julie will join Michael in the exit interviews of Mike and Vonda.

- Michael will make this announcement during the upcoming worship service.
- Both Vonda and Mike will be recognized for their years of service to Flossmoor Community Church.
- Michael stated that he will ask members of the Personnel committee to resume attendance to its regular monthly meetings.
- Jamie Ford mentioned that FCC secretary, Megan Maginity, due to her pregnancy, will be leaving on September 01, 2021. This will be officially announced on August 18.
- Jamie also stated that Leslie Maxie will be going on medical leave beginning August 20.
- She also relayed to the GB, that several positions within the Church need to be filled.

Governing Board training is to occur on August 31, 2021.

The closing prayer was shared by Anna.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.