

Flossmoor Community Church

Meeting Minutes from the

March 23, 2021 Governing Board Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting, which was conducted over Zoom, was called to order at 19:34.

Attendees

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

Opening Prayer

The opening prayer was shared by Kris McManus.

Approval of Minutes

Kenny Maxie called for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 23, 2021 meeting. The motion was approved after Bob Norby's suggested correction.

Pastor/Head of Staff Report

Pastor Julie began her report by speaking of Holy Week. She informed the GB that FCC will be conducting a *Maundy Thursday* service and a *Stations of the Cross* service on Good Friday. The Maundy Thursday service is to begin at 18:00, and its participants will be sharing their meals during the Zoom session. This service will incorporate elements of Communion, and it will end with the lighting of a candle. The service to celebrate the Stations of the Cross is to begin at 19:00 on Good Friday. The first 10 stations (depicted in two-minute videos) will be shown earlier in the day on Facebook. The remaining stations will be celebrated during the evening service.

Pastor Julie thanked Betsy for her work in the Church's current nominating season. She also expressed gratitude for the efforts of Donica & Eleanor in opening the Sanctuary for limited attendance during Holy Week. Donica offered the view that although the attendance was limited, it was meaningful.

Pastor Julie suggested that the team overseeing the logistical aspects of resuming in-person services should be expanded by adding members of the Congregation. She believes that the intended volunteers should be of two types: those who are versed in planning and those who are adept at executing plans. This group should plan to be in the Sanctuary on Sunday, April 18, 2021.

Research of other churches in the area is currently being conducted to determine what has been successful in their efforts of reopening.

The idea of conducting a survey was advanced to ascertain how the Congregation feels about resuming full, in-person service.

An inquiry was made about the Staff's working in the building. Jamie stated that the Staff has been encouraged to begin working within the walls of FCC.

Treasurer's Report

Bob Norby stated that pledges are currently tracking at about 95% of their budgeted amount with February 2021 pledges totaling \$42,410.00. He offered that the Church's current, unrestricted cash is \$186,716.00 and that our expenses are currently exceeding our revenues. Bob indicated that we are expecting some expenses to be above budget in that Dallas, the FCC Preschool Director, will resume her duties much sooner than the date listed in the budget. He specified that February 2021 snow removal costs, which were not accounted for, will be reflected in the March 2021 budget. Josh suggested that cuts in our maintenance costs may balance out unexpected costs such as the February 2021 snow removal expenses.

Stewardship Report

Kris McManus informed the Board that FCC pledges are up and that they are over their approved, budgeted amount. She stated that as of March 22, 2021 there are 134 pledging units totaling \$544,621.00. An inquiry was made about the pledge totals from March 2020. Kris stated that there were 148 pledging units totaling \$564,000.00 in March 2020. Kris believes that additional pledges may be possible after the Sanctuary is opened.

Devotional

The focus of Julie's Devotional was Discernment. She presented a quote on Discernment from Parker Palmer's *The Courage to Teach* and stated that she will be preaching about this subject in the next few weeks. Pastor Julie also graced the GB with a portion of the William Stafford poem, *Deciding*.

The remaining section of the Devotional was dedicated to reviewing the Governing Board's answers to her questions about our pandemic experiences concerning the Church. This review is present below in New Business.

New Business

The Board discussed Pastor Julie's questions concerning FCC and our pandemic experience during the New Business section of our meeting. An overview of these questions and their answers (where applicable) are as follows:

When you consider our church (our relationships, worship, ministries, service, etc.):

1. What do you actually value about our pandemic experience?
 - a. Zoom is valued in that it has "really worked for the Church." It allows members who have moved away to attend services. Zoom also provides a kind of "intimacy" in that it enables us to view more member faces during our services.
 - b. The pandemic has afforded us the realization that our Staff is incredibly resourceful.
 - c. Wednesday night offerings.

- d. The fact that the GB has a focus that extends beyond its usual meeting discussions. Members of the Governing Board have had more direct responsibility in assisting the Church in delivering its services.
 - e. We are reaching out more to our members.
 - f. "We went back to our roots to determine what is most important to us. We are thinking about the ways that we connect."
 - g. We are reaching out more to our community
2. What has become meaningful that you don't want us to lose?
- "I do not wish to lose the intimacy of our Zoom services."
3. What seems to be working?
- (Question not directly answered)
4. What do you not miss?
- a. In general, driving to the Church for meetings is not missed.
 - b. The sense that you must be physically present in the Sanctuary is a relief sometimes
 - c. A stringent order of Worship
5. What are you glad (or at least content) to have let go?
- a. The Narthex
 - b. Faith Family Matters
6. What wasn't working anyway?
- The debates over choices in music for the Church.
7. What do you miss?
- a. Coffee Time and the spontaneous conversations that arise from these gatherings after services are done.is missed by Bob and Terese.
 - b. The presence of the Choir and singing in Church with everyone.
 - c. Having kids around during services.
 - d. Attending Church services with the family.
 - e. The kinship of the closing ceremony (i.e. hands on shoulders during the Benediction).
8. What do you want to remind us is central or essential to our DNA as FCC?
- (Question not directly answered)
9. What do you notice shifting or changing about us?
- The Church is taking more risk...in a good way.

There was a brief discussion on what should be considered in reopening Flossmoor Community Church. During this discussion it was suggested that before the Church is reopened, the Sunday morning schedule should be adjusted to make it more family friendly. It was clarified that the start times for Sunday School sessions should be adjusted.

Old Business

No Old Business was presented during this meeting.

Announcements

1. There is to be a discussion, in April, of any questions resulting from the Kendi/DiAngelo readings.
2. A review of the strategic plans of individual board committees and their recommendations for the 2021 - 2022 program year is to be conducted in May.

Closing Prayer

The closing prayer was shared by Susan Durkin.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 21:03.

April Reports to Governing Board

Faith in Action - Jackie Riffice, Chair

April 2021

Highlights:

- The Board identified non-profit agencies that will receive a portion of the available funds to support project efforts. Fifteen agencies were invited to submit a grant request by mid-March. Faith in Action reviewed the requests to determine what agencies will be granted funds by June 2021. The recipients, subject to Governing Board approval, are as follows:

FACILITY	ACTUAL
BETHEL FACILITY	\$2,500
JONES	\$4,000
RESPOND NOW	\$7,250
RESTORATION MINISTRIES	\$2,500
SSFS	\$2,500
TOTAL REQUEST	\$18,750
BUDGET	\$18,750
REMAINDER	\$0

- The Easter Offering for Restoration Ministries and South Suburban Family Shelter amounts to \$2700 as of today. We anticipate late gifts.
- The FCC website for Faith in Action was updated with more current and timely information about the Board.

Hopes:

- We send our love, support, and hope to the Courington family as Phil addresses some significant health issues. We are sorry to see him resign his post on FIA and will miss his gifts of mindfulness, wisdom, and discernment. We hope every day for good news.

Nominating Committee - Terese Thrall, Chair

April 2021

Highlights:

- The Nominating Committee has filled most the of vacant committee positions, including two committee chairs. The committee met again in April to make nominee suggestions for a remaining vacancies.

Hopes:

- The committee hopes to fill remaining vacancies in time to receive board approval at the May meeting.

Diaconate Board - Sue Durkin, Chair

April 2021

Highlights:

- The Diaconate Board thanks David Carvalho for his service to our congregation for helping to secure COVID vaccination appointments for many of our members.
- Travis Adams reported to the Board about the plans for “re-gathering” in our sacred space for worship.
- The Diaconate Board will be assisting at a memorial service this weekend for Nancy Van Laten. This is the first memorial service in quite a long time.

Hopes:

- The Diaconate Board hopes to be able to provide “back-up” for Pastor Julie and for Travis Adams to members of our congregation when emergencies arise.
- The Diaconate hopes to be able to assist members of the congregation who have difficulty using the Internet to sign up for attendance for in-person worship services once that resignation is in place.
- The Diaconate will be reviewing our “Call Ministry” to assess if there is still a need for these scheduled calls to be made once we are able to gather together again.

“No Report”

Stewardship, Kris McManus
Congregational Connections, Vanessa Richardson
Finance, Bob Norby
Foundation, Lois Glasgow