

Flossmoor Community Church

Minutes of Congregational Meeting

January 24, 2021 at 11:00 AM

via Zoom

Call to Order

- The FCC Congregational Meeting was called to order at 11:21 AM.

Approval of Minutes from the June 28, 2020 Congregational Meeting - Anna Carvalho

- Anna called for a motion to approve the June 28, 2021 FCC Congregational Meeting
- This motion received a second and was approved unanimously by the attendees.

Treasurer's Report and Approval of Budget for the 2021 Fiscal Year - Bob Norby

- The FCC 2020 fiscal year ended with a surplus of \$88,894.34. This resulted in a "net positive swing of over \$125,000.00."
- Principally, the surplus is the result of two revenue accounts which were not in the 2020 budget. The accounts are the 2020 Challenge (\$18,928.00) and our forgiven Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan (net amount "was just short of \$105,000"). The total of the 2020 Challenge and our PPP loan forgiveness is \$123,889.34. (Bob touched on another \$1500.00 amount but did not go into detail about it).
- 2020 revenues and expenses both came in under budget.
- Expected pledges are short of budgets by nearly \$60,000.00.
- Pre-school and sharing fees were short by about \$30,000.00 because our buildings were closed.
- Our PPP loan, which FCC received in May 2020, covered the Church's payroll expenses in May, June, July, "and a few days in August."
- Our PPP loan was forgiven in December 2020.
- As of January 01, 2021, the Church has \$198,280.00 in available, unrestricted cash.
- At this time, Flossmoor Community Church carries no debt.
- Bob thanked the Foundation for its 2020 financial support of our missions, capital projects, and repairs/refurbishment of our facilities.
- The proposed 2021 FCC budget lists \$746,399.00 in revenues and \$834,902.48 in expenses resulting in a deficit of \$88,503.48.
- Bob acknowledged that this is the largest budget deficit proposal in many years.
- The Governing Board and Finance committee believe that our current cash position allows us to manage fiscal year 2021 with this proposed budget.
- Bob suggested that the proposed 2021 FCC budget be considered a "soft" budget as factors such as potential increased pledges, member gifts, and a second, possible PPP loan may influence the numbers.
- Bob moved that the proposed FCC budget, for fiscal year 2021, be adopted (a "second" of the motion is not required).
- Anna opened the floor for questions.
- Jeff Groen asked, "Where did \$62000.00 in plate offerings come from considering that we were not meeting?"
- Bob stated that there are several members who regularly give to the Church, but not through pledges. These offerings are considered to be "plate offerings."
- Verna McQuown wanted to know how the 2020 budget surplus offsets the 2021 budget.
- Bob stated that the surplus we received from 2020 is now a part of the FCC "checkbook." It is a part of the Church's actual cash. The 2021 budget is based on expected FCC revenues and expenses. The budget does not factor in the surplus amount of cash received from 2020. In the event that it is determined that FCC fiscal 2021 ends with a deficit, this can be offset with the cash that is currently in the FCC checkbook. Our cash may be used in the event of a revenue shortfall.

- Anna asked if the Congregation is ready to accept the proposed 2021 FCC budget as recommended by the Finance committee and approved by the Governing Board.
- The budget was approved by 100% of the voters.
- Bob moved to continue spending in the manner of the newly approved budget after fiscal 2021 has ended until the time of the first Congregational meeting in 2022.
- Anna provided clarity on what this motion meant.
- The motion was approved.

Stewardship Committee Update - Kris McManus

- As of the week ending January 23, 2020, FCC has achieved approximately 87% of its pledge goal from 82% of families who are expected to pledge.
- FCC is about \$5000 behind where we were last year...before the pandemic occurred.
- Kris expressed gratitude to all of those who have contributed.
- She also voiced her appreciation of the Church's well being in light of the fact that FCC is solely a Community Church and not part of a larger governing organization.
- Members were encouraged to possibly consider increasing their pledges with the potential stimulus that is currently under consideration by the U.S. Government.
- She provided a brief overview of where members can submit their pledges online.
- She stated that pledging allows the Church to continue its business in the community.

Nominating Committee Report - Terese Thrall

- Terese presented a slate of candidates that require approval from the Congregation.
- She noted that these nominees were asked to fill FCC committee positions, which opened after the June 2020 Congregational meeting,
- She also stated that the candidates have been approved by the nominating committee and the Governing Board.
- The slate of candidates is as follows:
 - Josh Grenard, Chair of Properties Committee
 - Felton Maxie, Governing Board Secretary
 - Jackie Riffice, Chair of Faith in Action Board
 - Erick Dorris, Elder and member of Long Range Vision Committee
 - Roberta Sergeant, member of Diaconate
 - Lois Toolan, member of Diaconate
 - Stephanie Wright, member of Faith in Action
 - Isabel Simard, member of Faith in Action
 - Megan Adams, member of Faith in Action
- Terese thanked the nominating committee and Betsy Hanzelin for their assistance with the candidates.
- Anna called for a motion to approve the nominated members. (A "second" was not needed).
- The nominees were unanimously approved by the Congregation.

Introduction of Harvey Reinvestment Project - Anna Carvalho and Jay Readey

- Anna introduced Jay Readey who is speaking about the Harvey Reinvestment project.
- Jay stated that he runs a nonprofit called Neighborscapes. This falls under a larger project called Innovation Housing.
- Innovation Housing strengthens neighborhoods by revitalizing vacant houses.
- Jay suggested that Harvey is a place of reinvestment. He will present a video to the Congregation in the future to demonstrate the city as it used to be.
- He inquired, rhetorically, as to what is the cause of Harvey's current, blighted status. Is it a matter of institutional racism?

- Jay presented a slide show that provided an overview of the scope of the Innovation Housing/NeighborScapes project in Harvey.
- He discussed how renters of the “gut-rehabbed” homes, Community Building Fellows (CBFs), are able to participate in the project.
 - In exchange for 10 hours a month of community engagement (in Harvey), CBFs are able to “rent space in the homes at below market rates.”
 - “Successful, long-term renters may buy homes as affordable housing.”
- The program will be overseen by community leaders in Harvey who will serve as its Advisory Board.
- Several, potential project roles for FCC were presented in the slide show. Among these roles are
 - Support reinvestment in the region
 - Develop long-term relationships within the region
 - Work with leadership in Harvey
 - Clearing lots and planting trees
 - Assisting with home renovation
 - Help research tax records of abandoned properties
 - Mentoring CBFs (CBFs are typically young people)
- Jay spoke of the Theory of Change and what steps are needed for change.
- The Innovation Houses program is to be implemented simultaneously with other projects that are investing in Harvey. Among these projects are
 - The City of Harvey redevelopment plan
 - The Ingalls Foundation redevelopment plan
 - Southland Development Authority regional investment
- There is a link on the Church’s Website about the Harvey Project.
- Phil Royster inquired about other community leaders who may not have been mentioned in the presentation. Jay identified the following leaders:
 - The former Second Ward Alderman from Harvey
 - The Mayor of Harvey
 - The City Manager, Tim Williams
 - The Economic Development Director, Nick Greifer

Governing Board Chair Comments - Anna Carvalho

- Anna provided a reflection on FCC’s past six months.
- She stated that as of January 19, 2021, there were 1975 reported cases of COVID-19, with 59 COVID-related deaths, in the Homewood-Flossmoor community.
- The Church’s willingness to remain [socially] distant, and to rely on technology for our activities, means that we are not contributing this burden.
- Anna expressed her gratitude for the creativity of the FCC staff in facilitating our togetherness.
- She is also thankful for the community’s engagement of Pastor Julie despite our inability to meet with her in person.
- Our facility is being rewired to allow for better streaming of services, increased Wi-Fi capacity, and more robust building security.
- FCC’s anti-racism efforts have been impactful within the community and beyond.
- The Church will be investing in the improvement of Harvey, IL.
- Our ministries have had to be “reengineered” as a result of the pandemic. FCC has adapted accordingly.
- Anna discussed the fact that FCC has experienced decreased pledging and membership attrition over the past 10 years.
- The PPP loan that we received in 2020 affords us more time to address the factors contributing to this attrition.
- She expressed optimism about the Church’s future and the positive impact of Pastor Julie’s spiritual approach to worship on that future.
- Word has spread about FCC’s anti-racism efforts and our investment in Harvey.

- She is excited about how our new IT infrastructure will positively benefit the Church (e.g. remote worship, renting of church facilities, etc.).

Pastor Comments - Pastor Julie Van Til

- Pastor Julie took us inside the sanctuary and showed us the Pastoral station that she uses during our Zoom worship sessions. This gave us an idea of the perspective that she has while she leads our services.
- Her comments centered around trust.
- She expressed her appreciation of our trust in God and in her.
- Pastor Julie encouraged us to trust in the Holy Spirit, in each other, and in ourselves.
- She stated that we have reason to trust despite the difficulties of our current time.

Questions

- Anna asked the following questions on behalf of another member: “What happens to the rehabbed (Innovation Houses) homes? Do they eventually go on the market?”
- Jay responded by stating that if a CBF member is in good standing (e.g. pays rent for five years), he/she can purchase the house 10% below its appraised value with a below market-rate mortgage.
- The house that will be offered to the CBF does not necessarily need to be the one that he/she was renting.

Closing Prayer

- The closing prayer was shared by Pastor Julie.

Adjournment

- Anna called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- The motion received a second, and it was approved.
- The meeting adjourned at 12:30

Minutes recorded by Felton Maxie, Governing Board Secretary