

Governing Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 22, 2019
7:00 pm – FCC Family Room

Members Present: Stephanie Byrd, Anna Carvalho, Rebecca Courington, Rick Hanzelin, Christian Kneeland, Kim Lupe, Bob Norby, Vanessa Richardson, Phyllis Royster, Terese Thrall, Jennifer Wojcikowski

Members Excused: Sharon Dobben, Lois Glasgow

Staff Present: Fred Lyon, Betsy Hanzelin

OPENING PRAYER (Rebecca)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from September 24, 2019 (Jen) Approved

TREASURER'S REPORT (Bob)

Solid September, both plate offerings and pledge collections were higher than last year (11% higher YOY when combined); distributions from FCC Foundation went through; revenues from sharing fees continue to be strong – we have hit the budget number for the full 12 month period; revenue exceeded expenses by just over \$11K. Fred added that the act of sending out statements as reminders to contributing members had a strong impact

PASTOR'S REPORT (Fred)

Kickoff of Stewardship Campaign on 10/13 (running until 11/3)

Pleased to welcome the new admin assistant, Meghan Maginity

We have a contractual person to play piano and organ on what was typically Praise Sundays through the end of the calendar year

NEW BUSINESS

Stewardship (Rick)

- Have heard some great testimonies from Stewardship Committee Members – what their story has been
- Rick will be talking about the numbers this upcoming Sunday, and explain what stewardship means and what it means for the church to receive pledges
- Kris McManus will be telling her story
- Commitment Sunday is Sunday, November 3rd; Stewardship Committee will be making calls after pledge Sunday – by later in November we should have a better sense of where we are financially
- Lots of positive feedback from Governing Board Members regarding the stories

Anna asked to take a minute to talk about the timing of the budget, since we switched the fiscal year – Bob Norby is hoping to have a pre-budget discussion and not wait until the final number comes in, Bob has already started meeting with staff and they will come back to Judy with their budgets by the end of November. Governing Board Members meet on January 21st, and Annual Meeting is on the 26th. It was decided that we will set a special meeting in January to discuss the budget.

Pastor Search Committee (Chris Dolan)

- Asked – “How many of you feel very confident that you’re aware of what the Search Committee is doing and where they’re at right now” – very, somewhat, not that confident. Governing Board members responded mostly with “very” or “somewhat”
- Remarkd on the need to always be out communicating about the process; the Pastor Search Committed conducted surveys (got about 100 back), and held meetings
- June 28 they had their kickoff meeting; got the call out September 18, had first candidate by September 22. FCC will keep application window open until December 15. They wanted to start with a sense of where we are as a church, and get our call out as soon as possible. Got their call our to UCC first, and are now working their network of pastor friends. Jan (Fred’s wife) has been a great resource. Ad in the Christian Century, and an ad in the Presbyterian Outlook magazine. If need be, will reach out to several Presbyteries. Have 20 applicants already; half of which passed the first round.

- How do we determine who the right candidates are? The resume, responses to the written questions. Have a good team, are making good progress. Candidates who get beyond the “written questions” portion of the process, will then be scheduled for phone interviews.
- Anna asked about the general quality of the pool? Chris responded that in general the pool has been pretty strong, their advertising has been pretty targeted.
- Betsy asked that for the folks who don’t feel like they know what’s going on, what would help? Stephanie suggested that if you weren’t here on the Sunday spoke, you would have missed a critical piece about the process. So, we need to continue to communicate progress and next steps.
- Chris confirmed that the Search Committee plans to have a monthly check in within the Narthex and also Sunday services
- Rebecca asked if the timeline is showing that we’ll have someone in place before Fred leaves. Chris acknowledged that it’s conceivable, but we never know with these processes. Too early to say whether or not we’ll need an interim pastor.
- Bob Norby asked what the average experience level of the candidates has been? Chris responded that we have has a broad pool, from those with a full career in the field, to those who barely meet our criteria (very early in their career). Some from our area, some from the outlying area, and some from out of state. It’s a good mix.
- Anna thanked Chris for his work/leadership and the Committee’s work
- The Governing Board plans to keep Chris on the agenda every month to continue updates on the Search Committee’s progress.

OLD BUSINESS

PADS (Anna)

Re-circulated sign-up sheet for fifth Sundays for those not here last month

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

VISIONING (Anna)

Our Spiritual Journey, with two central questions:

- 1) What spiritual journey do you envision for our church for the next several years? What could we be doing to forward the vision?
- 2) How can/does serving on the Governing Board forward your own spiritual journey? What spiritual tools would enhance your journey?

CLOSING PRAYER (Rick)

ADJOURN

***This year, we will make God’s profound love tangible
and create a place of safety, a place of vitality and a place of daring.***

Board of Faith in Action Report to Governing Board

November 12, 2019

Submitted by Kim Lipe

HIGHLIGHTS

Hands On Projects

- Thanksgiving Drive for Respond Now on Sunday, November 17
- Reviewed opportunities to serve at Share Your Soles, Greater Chicago Food Depository and Feed My Starving Children. Decided to try to work with FMSC on Project in Jan/Feb.

Grants

- Reviewed documents regarding potential grant participants and proposals from organizations. Discussed the list and debated best method to divide and distribute funds.

World Communion Offering

- Distributions have been made to By the Hand (\$3319) and International Rescue Committee (\$3569) for a total of \$6888 collected in 2019 for World Communion.

HOPES

- Board needs future conversation related to decreasing number of organizations to make a bigger impact, and the education that would need to be done to educate the congregation to this change.
- Identify more Hands On Service Opportunities for all ages, perhaps partnering with groups we contribute to through grants.

ACTION ITEM

The Board of Faith in Action has approved the following distribution of grants to the following organizations and requests Governing Board approval.

Recipient	Amount	Purpose
Bethel Family Center	\$6800	Sponsorship of Job Training Program for youth.
Jones Memorial Center	\$4000	Funding for "When I Grow Up" program for children
Lighthouse LGBTQ	\$1300	\$600 directly to Lighthouse for speaker fees for upcoming programs, \$700 held for FCC sponsorship of Pride Party and tent at event.
Respond Now	\$2000	Purchase of 2 stand up freezers (#1 priority on their wish list)
Restoration Ministries	\$1500	Continue costs associated with ESL program
Sheillah Doyle Foundation	\$2000	Scholarship fund for children to attend camp
South Suburban Family Shelter	\$5000	SSFS has requested funds at combat budget deficit due to decreased funding.
Preemptive Love	\$1000	Emergency Aid, to provide on the ground assistance to people caught in crisis in Northern Syria.
TOTAL	\$23,600	

Board of Congregational Connections

November 2019

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Bonfire & Bears Connect Event at the Hanzelin's was attended by over 20 guests who enjoyed the perfect weather and fellowship.

- Our first BYOB Bingo was a huge success! Attended by over 85 people – many first-time visitors. The winnings were split with FCC, and \$665.00 was raised. The board had great feedback from attendees, many of whom voiced they'd like to see BYOB Bingo be a regular event. BCC has discussed making Bingo a quarterly event and will plan a return in the early winter months.
- Postcards are being sent to 19 inactive members with personalized notes inviting them back to worship.
- 3rd Annual Homewood-Flossmoor Show Off will be Friday November 20. Tito's Handmade Vodka has donated the cocktails for sale to benefit PADS and will be anonymously matching our fundraising total for the evening for a second year. Blue Island Beer Co. is donating beer. Nikki Rae's Sandwiches Food Truck, which was present at our Community House Fest will be parked in front. The evening has 12 musical acts lined up and has been enthusiastically staffed by the congregation and will be MC'd and run by Brooke King-LaBreck and Matt Bailey. We're excited!
- Coming up: Deck the Halls Potluck December 1 during the Education Hour (no formal Education this day).

HOPES:

- Potential December Connect Event – Choral Concert field trip to see Al Jackson's choir
- Potential January Connect Event – "Just Mercy" movie/dinner/discussion; potential to pair with Faith in Action/Adult Ed for this Connect Event
- January or February BYOB Bingo

Submitted Vanessa Richardson, Chair

Board of Christian Education

November 2019

Children's Ministry - Leslie Maxie

Highlights:

- We learned the entire story of Moses and for 3 weeks we had the youth teaching. It was wonderful and both groups learned so much.
- We hosted a family Halloween Party and had about 40-50 families, mostly from the community in attendance.
- We have planned and started working on the pageant. It should be a good show on the 15th.

Hopes:

- Hoping some of the new families that attended the Halloween party will come to church
- Hoping the Youth learned a lot about teaching little ones
- Hoping the rehearsals go well and that the pageant is a hit;-)
- Hoping for a happy and healthy holiday season for all:-)

Youth Ministry - Allison Billings

Report accepted with a mixture of sadness at Allison leaving us and joy for her new opportunities

Highlights:

- Resigning from position as Director of Youth Ministries :(Youth leadership team had a Halloween Party 10/30. Best costume? One youth dressed as resurrected Jesus (hand wounds & all) and another youth dressed as the stone that was rolled away. Quest had a great first Retreat 10/25-27. The confirmands seemed to have a great time and love Tower Hill. Tribes just wrapped up teaching Sunday School (10/27, 11/3, & 11/10). Photos will be in the Narthex

Hopes:

- All youth will help with PADS on 11/24 from 5:30-7:30 for Sunday Night Group
- Deck the Halls event on 12/1. Youth help decorate the Sanctuary and Gathering Space for Christmas
- Leadership Christmas Party is 12/11 @ Allison & Marc's house

- Last day of youth group for semester is 12/15 (Also my last day at FCC).

Adult Education

Jessica Groen

Highlights:

- Adult Education course leaders have been reporting regular Sunday morning attendance at around 25. This is wonderful. The Courington's reported on a successful fall course, and Trina Hayes's book study is off to a great start.
- Sunday morning Drop-in Courses in the Bell Chapel are attracting 4-16 participants each week. The most recent presentation by member Audrey Weidman on managing stress was well attended and well received.
- Pastor Fred is wrapping up his Wednesday evening course on written faith statements this week Wed and will be starting up a new course on the Christmas eve scripture passages throughout the Wednesdays of December.

Hopes:

- Jessica is working with other members of the Racism Awareness Memoir writing workshop (facilitated by Dr. Phil Royster) to develop a plan for presenting and discussing portions of the New York Times Magazine's *The 1619 Project* for February's Black History Month Adult Education course.
- Jessica will be in communication with Kate Saunders, a representative of the Board of Congregational Connections, to develop a Connect event that involves a January outing for adults to participate in a viewing and discussion of the movie *Just Mercy*.
- The Drop-In schedule for Winter and Spring 2020 is nearly filled out. The complete list of winter and spring adult education and will be published and distributed to members via *The Narthex*, print and website communication avenues in late December.

Weekday Preschool

Dallas Collins

Highlights:

- Erin Keigher started rotating into our Teddy Bear & Snoopy classrooms for Language & Literacy groups each week on Tuesdays & Wednesdays.
- We hosted Halloween parties on October 29 & 30
- Playground Clean-up happened on November 2- about 20 parents and a few teens helped rake leaves, rinse toys and swept out the shed to prep for winter play.
- November/December enrichments began 11/5 with Tumble Bears continuing on Tuesdays, Cooking & Science on Wednesdays, and Mixed Media Art on Thursdays.
- We collected many requested items for Respond Now 11/12-11/15

Hopes:

- Parent Teacher conferences are 11/25, we are expanding hours and including an evening option to accommodate working schedules. Lots of positive feedback thus far, it looks like this will continue.
- Thanksgiving Break is 11/26-11/29- wishing everyone a joyous time with Family & Friends
- December Holiday Parties are scheduled for 12/18 & 12/19
- Our teacher holiday party is also scheduled for 12/19 at noon off site

Submitted by Rebecca Courington, Chair

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

November/December 2019

Report to the Governing Board

RECENT ACTIVITY: Allison Billings resigned as Director of Youth Ministries, after accepting a full-time position at Community Presbyterian Church in Clarendon Hills. We will miss her but wish her the best on her new position. The Personnel Chair met with the Board of Ed Chair, Rebecca Courington, and Staff (Pastor Fred, Betsy Hanzelin, and Jamie Ford) regarding Allison's impending departure. We discussed immediate concerns, the search for a new Director of Youth Ministries, and the timing of a search to fill the position.

Since this meeting, we've worked out some of the timing of the search. The opening has been posted on the church website. We will also be posting it a few other places. We will accept resumes until December 31 and would not interview until the second week in January. The timing of this search isn't great with the upcoming holidays, and we don't have a good feel for how many applicants we will get. We are putting together a sub-committee to review applications and interview the top candidates.

ONGOING/UPCOMING: The Personnel Committee will continue to discuss ways that we can better support our staff. Funds for Team-Building Workshops and Continuing Education would go a long way to helping the staff do their jobs more effectively and be good for morale, especially when pay raises have not been in the budget recently.

Submitted by Sharon Dobben, chair

Properties Committee

Highlights:

- Nesko electric replaced the dimming panel and the theatre lights in the Sanctuary. We are thrilled to be able to turn on the lights with a simple switch, once again.
- Matthews roofing has been hired to replace the flat roof on the music wing, and we are waiting for weather to allow for a start.
- Working with Arctic to get the HVAC to work properly, keeping us comfortable in the building.
- New sign posts have been built and installed in from of the office entrance, Travers entrance/music wing and the Community House. Brooke is designing new signs to hang from them, soon.
- Secured a snow and ice contract with Haggerty Landscaping. Tyler Thompson/Bent Oak is no longer offering snow and ice removal.
- Properties committee and a few church members came together to work on a fall clean-up of the lawn/gardens in October.

Hopes:

- Jamie and Betsy will work to find members to help set the different "scenes" with the new lighting system.
- Properties Committee will put up the Crazy Lights on the church lawn on 12/1.