

**First Congregational Church United Church of Christ (FCCUCC) of Colorado Springs  
Minutes of the Council Meeting**

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**January 10, 2019  
Gregg Library**

Council Members in Attendance:

Connie Brachtenbach (Moderator)  
Lee Lehmkuhl (Vice Moderator)  
Lisa Mason (Secretary)  
Adam Gibbs (Worship & Spiritual Life)  
Julia Nace (Treasurer)  
Lynne Stefoniak (Care & Fellowship)  
Gloria Latimer (Education)  
Wayne Bland (Outreach)

Council Members Absent: None

Ex Officio in Attendance:

Rev. Heather Haginduff (Lead Minister)  
Ruth Roland (Director of Financial  
Ministry)  
Rev. Jacque Franklin (Minister of Pastoral Care)

Ex Officio Absent: None

Guests:

Aaron Brown - incumbent Council  
member for Education,  
Paul McNeill - incumbent Council Vice-  
Moderator,  
Polly Strovink - incumbent Council  
Treasurer,  
Rich Law & Nancy Henjum  
Candace Woods - Director of Youth &  
Adult Ministry  
David Acton - Organist / Office  
Administrator  
Emily Bond - Communications  
Coordinator

Introduction of Guests- see above

Nancy Henjum and Rich Law presented the findings from the Listening Sessions that gave the Congregation the opportunity to express their deeply held values and concerns about the reduced budget projections for 2019. In summary, the Congregation felt a significant need to know why the income projections for 2019 are likely to be lower than previous years and they also expressed the desire to support and solve this situation.

**Meeting called to order:** 5:30 pm

**DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes will be sent out and viewed by e-mail within the next week. It was agreed upon, by consensus, to then vote by e-mail "Reply All", for approval of the minutes upon receipt/review.

**CORE RESOURCE AREA AND MINISTRY AREA REPORTS:**

**EDUCATION**

- Gloria shared she had a meeting with Candace. Gloria then highlighted the most important parts of Candace' programs.

- By-Laws Task Force - as a member of this task force, Gloria presented the “Revisions to the Constitution and By-Laws for First Congregational Church which are related to grammar, punctuation, or correlation changes (December 2018),” (see handout) which were tabled from the December Council meeting.
- **MOTION:** Gloria moved to approve the revisions to the by-laws as presented. Seconded by Lee Lehmkuhl. Approved by voice vote.

#### **VICE MODERATOR**

- Lee Lehmkuhl sent an email with details from Ruth Roland regarding where funding could be obtained concerning the landscaping demolition project (as explained in the December Council Meeting). Monies could affordably come from temporarily restricted funds.
- **MOTION:** Lee moved that Council approve spending \$3,000 from restricted funds on the landscape demolition as mentioned at the December Council Meeting. Julia seconded. Approved via voice vote with one opposing.

#### **OUTREACH**

- Wayne Bland sent an e-mail with information about and a request to approve Karen Muise to be on MG&O. [Serving on MG&O has fiduciary responsibilities therefore, per the By-Laws, this position requires Council approval]
- **MOTION:** Wayne moved that Council approve Karen Muise to be on MG&O. Gloria seconded. Approved via voice vote.

#### **TREASURER**

- Julia Nace & Ruth Roland recently reviewed the 2018 balance sheet.
- Contributions fell short by approximately \$35,000 that were then made up for by savings from deferred actions.
- The trend toward giving/contributions continues to go down, especially in unpledged funds.
- Lynne asked if it was apropos to share the balance sheet numbers with the Congregation. Council discussed the possibility of putting it on Power Point slides for the Annual Meeting.
- Whether or not this information is presented via Power Point slides at the Annual Meeting, these numbers WILL go out with the Annual Report.

#### **FINANCIAL MINISTRY**

- Ruth updated the progress from the Annual Appeal.
- Tracking the numbers from year over year shows a 12% increase. This does not include a \$40,000 gift nor the \$20,000 match.
- Heather explained and celebrated that 12% is a sign of a vibrant church.
- Consequently, Ruth is currently projecting \$844,000 for the operating budget. This includes the \$60,000 of the above-mentioned gift and match. (Of the above \$844K, \$784k is in anticipated and ongoing pledges with \$533K already received in pledges.)

- Ruth reported that there has also been an increase in membership numbers.

Pastor Jacque reported that there is another person at All Soul's Unitarian that is now in sanctuary there.

Emily Bond explained that information turned in for the Power Point slides for the Annual Meeting does NOT need to be formatted because she will adapt it into the church's systems.

Connie requested that Council go into Executive Session. Council provided a unanimous hand vote in favor and guests exited.

**MEETING EVALUATION:**

- Lisa congratulated Adam on his suggestion that Connie could immediately summarize the Executive Summary from Rich and Nancy's presentation in Connie's next communications (e-mails and Sunday summaries) to the church.
- That suggestion resolved Julia's concerns that the Congregation needed to be addressed in order to give the Congregation acknowledgement that the Council has heard the Congregations' input.

**ADJOURNED:** 9:21 pm

Respectfully submitted by  
Lisa A Mason, Council Secretary

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Lisa A Mason, *Council Secretary*

Connie Brachtenbach, *Council Moderator*