

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

January 11, 2018, Gregg Library

Council Members in Attendance:

Connie Brachtenbach (*Moderator*)
Scott Tetrick (*Vice Moderator*)
Lisa Mason (*Secretary*)
John Beavers (*Education*)
Chris Reimer (*Worship and Spiritual Life*)
Lynne Stefonik (*Care and Fellowship*)
Mike Gemm (*Treasurer*)
Alyce Morgan (*Outreach*)

Ex Officio in attendance:

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

Council Members Absent:

None

Ex Officio Absent: None

Guests: Nora Gustafson,
Congregational Parliamentarian

Grace and Dinner was pot-luck style so thanks to all with the devotional thanks to Pastor Heather

Meeting called to order: 6:20 pm

MODERATOR:

Connie shared that she had discussed the motion to change our Constitution/Bylaws to gender neutral language with FCCUCC Parliamentarian, Nora Gustafson. Connie also shared that she had contacted the Rev. Sue Artt, Conference Minister for the Rocky Mountain Conference UCC, as well as Rocky Mountain Conference legal counsel, Jeff Villanueva. Per Mr. Villanueva, the proposed gender-neutral language changes to the Church Bylaws do not present any issues from a legal perspective. However, per Nora, based upon our historical approach, as well as our adherence to "Robert's Rules of Order", any change to the Bylaws requires a 30-day notice to the Congregation as well as an independent motion for each proposed change to the Bylaws. Because neither of these criteria have been satisfied for the Gender-Neutral Language motion, Council agreed that the existing motion in front of the Congregation be amended to allow Council to appoint a committee to review the Bylaws and come back to the 2019 Annual Meeting with a complete motion, per proposed change, with a vote from the Congregation now. Nora volunteered to draft the amendment, which will be shared with Connie, who will garner approval from Council to move forward with Nora's amendment during the 2018 Annual Meeting.

The rehearsal for the Annual Meeting will be Saturday, January 27 at 9 AM in the Sanctuary. The 2018 Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28 at 9:45 AM in the Church Sanctuary.

DECEMBER MINUTES:

Connie submitted edits.

Scott moved to accept the previous minutes as amended.

Chris seconded. The motion was approved via voice vote.

CARE AND FELLOWSHIP:

Lynne shared Pocket Prayer Shawls with Council. She also congratulated Pastor Jacque on how she has nurtured and guided the Care Coordination Team.

VICE MODERATOR:

Scott reported on the status of the Transition Team and the activities they coordinated on behalf of new pastor Heather Haginduff. Scott also briefly discussed the list of capital projects that need to be addressed in 2018, with repairs to the towers, tower windows and exterior painting being listed as the priorities. There was some discussion surrounding the vandalism that has occurred, on several occasions, to "The Little Library" in front of the Church. Council agreed that any decisions regarding next steps related to this issue will be addressed by Staff. Jeannie Tate, church librarian, asked that this question be brought to Council.

TREASURER

Mike reviewed the December financials. Connie thanked Ruth, as well as others, for the excellent financial performance in 2017. Council will present a balanced budget for 2018 at the Annual Meeting for review and approval by the Congregation. Ruth and Mike shared that a separate line will be added to the budget to accommodate and track pledges that are designated for paying down and reducing debt. That said, Council discussed that overall, we want to discourage designated gifts as these types of donations reduce the overall flexibility of the pledge.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL MINISTRIES

Ruth brought up that in 2016, Gloria Latimer (then Council Member for Education) presented a motion to transfer \$3,000 from the MG&O budget to the JWW program for 2016 and 2017. Since then JWW has received \$10,000 in designated gifts and is now well funded. Therefore, Ruth suggested the \$3,000 slated for JWW in the MG&O budget stay within the group.

Mike moved that Council recommend to the Congregation, during the 2018 budget discussion at the Annual Meeting, to retain the \$3,000 in the MG&O budget.

Scott seconded. The motion carried via voice vote.

LEAD PASTOR:

Throughout January, Pastor Heather will be attending church committee meetings and holding one-on one meetings with Staff. Additionally, a Staff Retreat has been scheduled for later in the month. Worship is a primary focus for Pastor Jacque, Mandy Todd, Pastor Heather and, to some extent, for David Acton. This group is already planning for Lent including plans for a Wednesday evening and Friday morning study group. Pastor Heather is currently meeting with Staff on a weekly basis and with Connie Brachtenbach, Scott Tetrick, and Lee Lehmkuhl on a twice monthly basis.

The housing allowances for Pastors Jacque and Heather were authorized this month by Council via e-mail vote.

MODERATOR:

Connie reviewed the Annual Meeting agenda, which will follow the same format that has been utilized over the past several years. While the Congregation will be voting on the 2018 budget, the Gender Neutral Language motion as well as the new slate for open leadership positions, Connie anticipates that the meeting will be relatively brief and celebratory in nature. Connie reminded each Council member that they need to have their bullet points/information for the slide presentation at the meeting turned into Emily no later than January 18.

The Leadership Retreat for all church leaders will be Saturday, February 10 from 8:30- Noon in the Founders' Room with a continental breakfast beginning at 8 AM. The topics for the meeting will be centered on an overview of the existing governance structure, as well as some introductory time spent with the "Revolutionary Agreements".

MEETING EVALUATION:

Jacque said it felt long. Chris liked the dinner being potluck. There was a consensus that Council should have a retreat.

Adjournment at 8:35 pm.

Approved by consensus.

Respectfully submitted- Lisa A Mason, Secretary


Lisa A. Mason, Council Secretary


Connie Brachtenbach, Council Moderator

