

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**(FCUCC) OF COLORADO SPRINGS**

**Minutes of the Council Meeting**  
**November 10, 2016, Gregg Library**

**Council Members in Attendance:**

Lee Lehmkuhl (Moderator)  
Connie Brachtenbach (Vice Moderator)  
Lisa Mason (Secretary)  
Mike Gemm (Treasurer)  
Chris Reimer (Worship & Spiritual Life)  
John Beavers (Education)  
Judy Kort (Care & Fellowship)  
Alyce Morgan (Outreach)

**Ex Officio in attendance:**

Rev. Nayiri Karjian (Interim Lead Minister)  
Rev. Jacque Franklin (Minister of Pastoral Care)  
Ruth Roland (Director of Financial Ministries)

**Ex Officio Absent:** None

**Council Members Absent:**

None

**Guests:**

Jan Johnson, Jill Robinson, Scott Tetrick

Dinner, Grace and Devotional thanks to John

**Meeting called to order-6:34 pm**

**Search Committee:**

**Jan Johnson** and **Jill Robinson**, Co-Chairs for the Search Committee, reported on initial meetings that involved team building and addressing the UCC Opportunity Profile (which is like a preview or want ad that is posted on the UCC website). The committee met with **Sue Artt**, Director of the Rocky Mountain Conference of UCC. This Sunday is the second "conversation" process via Nayiri and the congregation and the Search Committee wants to make sure they routinely hear from the congregation. When asked about confidentiality issues during the search process, Nayiri said the committee can share process info and also the church profile information.

**MOTION: To accept the October Minutes.**

**Connie moved to accept the minutes with two corrections.**

**Seconded by Judy. Approved by voice vote**

**Core Resource Area Reports:**

**Connie - Vice Moderator:**

Safety Task Force - **Chris Riemer, Chris Carlson, Sue Prendinger, Ruth Roland & Connie** met with Sgt Santos from CSPD and did a safety perspective walk through of

the church especially in light of an active shooter scenario with a particular focus on physical safety with interventions by fire, police etc. Topics discussed by the task force were Shelter in Place scenarios, and how to send out help messages, i.e. using a baby monitor or iPhone app that is like an amber alert beacon. A Sidewalk Greeter volunteer program that helps with safety issues is being looked at. Connie also discussed a meeting with **Marge Murray** and **Sid Shelton** regarding converting the South Balcony into a meeting place or study room. What physical structure could be installed to create privacy in that space but would be affordable?

### **MG&O Report:**

Regarding homelessness, the Springs Rescue Mission had an encampment on their property since they couldn't open until the 18<sup>th</sup> and CSPD was called. 200 individuals were evicted. Catholic Charities called a meeting of various service providers. We at FCUCC offered *The Dwelling Place* and other service providers added extra spots too. So MG & O decided on Dec 11 for a follow-up to see if the service providers have been able to coordinate and open. (Nov 6 there was a community wide discussion held at FCUCC). **Ani Rose Whaleswan** is coordinating *The Dwelling Place* volunteers. The intent is to create nimble networks that can respond in a time of need.

Regarding the Presidential election results, Jacque suggested a letter to the other parishes, mosques, temples that we worked with for the summer Multi-Faith Camp program to say that in light of recent news stories about hate speech and activities erupting we are reaching out in support for all.

The Ministerial Discernment Committee has completed their work with **Jeff Dodson** who is waiting for call to proceed with ordination. **RoMa Johnson**, & **Logan Bennett** have completed Seminary.

**Just Peace-** (see Draft 8) a lot of people are looking at it and the organizer/facilitator, **Rich Law**, is not getting a lot of feedback yet so reach out to him. (No news is good news?) The main concerns:

- How will this initiative look?
- How will it play out in the fabric of this church?
- Where does it fit into our organizational structure?
- It's a stand, it's a commitment, it's a pronouncement and you live it or it can also be turned into an action plan item.

Other examples of these types of initiatives are being a Micah 6, or an Open and Affirming church. At what point do we okay the draft? Civil respectful discourse, based on the results of the Presidential election in light of the topic of Just Peace, ensued. The consensus was we will vote on the final draft at the December meeting.

### **Annual Meeting:**

The January Communicator deadline will be December 15 for the Annual Meeting announcement and Council members will want to turn in their area's individual

reports. Consequently, it was recommended that Council start working on those reports at the beginning of December. Lee will need your bullet points, or pictures, or whatever in order to have those in his slide deck/Powerpoint presentation for the Annual Meeting.

Connie said there was an anonymous concern about **Mike Gemm** being on Council and **Jessica Gemm** on Search Committee (They are married). Connie responded to those concerns that the Search Committee is separate and confidential and that seemed to address that person's concerns.

### **Financial Report:**

Mike reported on how to think of the budget for 2017- especially with Organist/Music Associate, Nurse, and Office Manager positions open and/or proposed. He asked us to

- consider what are the priority areas?
- What is our vision for the next several years and how does that drive the short term budget needs of 2017?

We need to find the money to fund this vision and we don't want to wait for the next minister to show up.

The following question was asked: is there a need for the congregation to "debrief" regarding a very contentious Presidential election and surprising outcome? (Trump elected over Clinton) Nayiri and Jacque will decide.

**Next meeting:** Monday, December 12, 2016

### **Meeting Evaluation:**

- Lee appreciated people really prioritizing their comments and reports.
- The extra time at the beginning, to debrief among ourselves the election results, was appreciated.

**Adjournment: Chris moved and Connie seconded adjournment at 2050.**

Respectfully submitted- Lisa A Mason, Secretary

Lisa A Mason, Council Secretary

Lee Lehmkuhl, Council Moderator

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