

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(FCUCC) OF COLORADO SPRINGS
Minutes of the Council Meeting
December 12, 2016, Gregg Library

Council Members in Attendance:

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

Ex Officio in attendance:

Rev. Nayiri Karjian (Interim Lead
Minister)
Ruth Roland (Director of Financial
Ministries)

Ex Officio Absent:

Rev. Jacque Franklin (Min. of Pastoral
Care)

Council Members Absent:

Judy Kort (Care and Fellowship)

Guests: None

Dinner thanks to Ruth, and Grace and Devotional thanks to Alyce

Meeting called to order - 6:25 pm

MOTION: To accept the November Minutes with two corrections.
Connie moved to accept the minutes with two corrections.
Seconded by Chris. Approved by voice vote

Core Resource Area Reports:

Outreach (Alyce):

Sky Forester (Chair of MG&O) is going out of town for 4 months so **Blake Pelton** will take his place. Two new MG&O members are **Pauli Hubbard** and **Mary Jane Ray**. They need to be voted in by Council because they manage money for the committee.

MOTION: To accept the New MG&O members, Pauli Hubbard and Mary Jane Ray.
Seconded by John. Approved by voice vote

Just Peace pronouncement:

(Alyce reported in lieu of **Rich Law** as he is ill.) Jacque, Nayiri and Rich and Alyce met and the pronouncement was jointly amended. This draft was passed around.

MOTION: Alyce moved to accept the Just Peace Pronouncement as written and to forward it to the Congregation to be voted on at the Annual Meeting.
Chris seconded the motion. Approved by voice vote.

Vice Moderator (Connie):

The Safety Task Force will reconvene in January. The Usher Appreciation Breakfast took place on November 19. Ushers expressed concern about if they were to also serve as the new Sidewalk Greeters. Clarification: these will be two separate ministries. The ushers requested training on evacuation skills/evacuation drills and how to assist the congregants that have various disabilities in an evacuation scenario. They also reviewed and asked about where first aid supplies are. They would like to also have a comfort kit that would have water, etc... in it.

Connie was contacted by a church member stating that the Director of Inside Out Youth Services has expressed frustration that FCUCC was hosting sessions on homelessness when FCUCC wasn't helping their organization. Connie will get back to Inside Out that we have indeed contributed to them and we will invite them to take part in future homelessness meetings.

Education (John):

Ardith Hanson and **Sean Buchanan** are the two new heads of The Forum. They will share the responsibilities.

Moderator (Lee):

Lee reminded us of Pastor Gregg's quote and mentioned that discussions on our part imply that we condemn a Trump election and yet at the same time there are indeed unjust and bigoted persons/situations. However, condemning is not in alignment with our values. Prophetic and compassionate actions in the face of injustice and bigotry are in alignment. This may be a good initiative/conversation for the Just Peace proclamation.

Treasurer (Mike):

- **Mike, Ruth and Julia Nace** (past Treasurer) met to review budget priorities/transitions.
- **Mike, Ruth, Nayiri and Jacque** also met regarding budget deficit issues.
- Connie expressed that it may be useful to get the congregation to have a stronger sense of urgency. The congregation should be informed of this. (Judy, via e-mail to Mike, expressed that we should ask the congregation for what we need.)
- Chris suggested that at the Annual Meeting we express to the congregation to extend the Capital Campaign.
- Nayiri suggested transparency about the issue with the understanding that some may find talking about finances a bit taboo, but the younger generations need to learn, hear and understand these issues.
- Nayiri suggested springtime -rebirth-Easter-tax refund season as a short, but concentrated, 2nd giving period. She suggested she can go to all the sitting committees and explain giving strategies per generation and explain average salaries in Colorado Springs, and what it would take for us to succeed which is \$2400 per person which is 3% of the average salary.
- We'll be short by \$32k due to some strong givers moving away and with the deaths we've incurred.
- John suggested looking at generating revenues from JWW or OWL or other popular educational programs. We need to inform people about costs and link

them to the things they are passionate about and that way they are motivated to support those things by giving.

- It was suggested that we send out an email with a blanket request for the year-end to increase donations and get a fairly critical 20-30 supporters contacted, probably personally, to get them committed to a pledge just after Christmas as well as a pulpit message that is tied to the written information that Nayiri intends to present with slides/visuals.
- We should also make a request from the pulpit this Sunday to give everyone a heads-up.
- We can then update and rebroadcast the information on Sunday, Jan 8 of any progress made toward reducing the deficit.
- We will probably not hire an organist until July. An office manager is really needed.
- We are hopeful that the nurse position can be delayed until summer if the volunteer nurse knows that there is a plan to fund her position.

The Ministry Discernment Committee has been under Outreach and hence Jacque has been in charge. Nayiri and Jacque met. Nayiri thinks the Lead Minister should take over that and put it under Council. Nayiri wanted to check with Council to see if that's acceptable. There was consensus that it is acceptable.

Leadership Retreat: Confirmed for February 25.

Rev. Roger Butts wants to bring the documentary about Niebuhr to Colorado Springs and has asked if FCC can be a co-sponsor for \$250. Mike said that's a management decision so they will fund it thru advocacy funds for Council.

If you want to attend Congregations Alive, you need to contact Del.

Annual Meeting review (Lee):

Lee needs our Power Point slide information the week before January 29.

Emily needs Council Annual Report information by January 9 so she can publish it.

There will be a rehearsal on January 28 at 9 am.

Meeting Evaluation: none.

Adjournment: Connie moved and Alyc seconded adjournment at 21:07.

Next meeting: Thursday, January 12

Respectfully submitted- Lisa A Mason, Secretary

Lisa A Mason, Council Secretary

Lee Lehmkuhl, Council Moderator
