

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(FCUCC) OF COLORADO SPRINGS
Minutes of the Council Meeting
January 14, 2016, Gregg Library

Council Members in Attendance:

Lee Lehmkuhl (Moderator)
Lisa Mason (Secretary)
Gloria Latimer (Education)
Chris Reimer (Worship & Spiritual Life)
Julia Nace (Treasurer)
Alyce Morgan (Outreach)
Judy Kort (Care and Fellowship)

Council Members Absent:

Vice Moderator - position absent

Ex officio in attendance:

Rev. Benjamin Broadbent (Lead Minister)
Rev. Jacque Franklin (Minister of Pastoral Care)
Ruth Roland (Director of Financial Ministries)

Ex officio Absent:

None

Guests:

John Beavers - incoming Education
Connie Brachtenbach - incoming Vice Moderator

Dinner - thanks to Jacque and Ben; Grace - thanks to Judy

Meeting called to order - 6:23pm

MOTION: To approve the December Minutes. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Core Resource Areas and Ministries:

- Gloria (Education):

no additional comments beyond the report submitted.

- Chris (Worship & Spiritual Life):

more positive about the Taizé contemplative service.

- Alyce (Outreach):

Great new folks on MG&O Committee. Candace Datz is working with/partnering with High Plains Unitarian on OWL curriculum for them.

- Julia (Treasurer):

Approving the budget this year may impact financials for next year. We have a balanced budget. We received 99% of the pledged income which we don't recall having been so successful before. Principle on the mortgage has been paid from funds received from the Capital Campaign (now completed). But, going forward, it will need to come from Endowment income. (The mortgage has 25 years left of the original 30-year variable loan.) The big need is that we will have deferred maintenance issues coming up in the future regarding the facilities.

Fiscally, how do we take no risks with the budget vs being recklessly optimistic about the possibility of growth? "Capacity Building" is heavily linked to the fact that in 2017 we will be short \$200k of our current income because the Ducommun bequest of \$200k ends in 2016.

MOTION: To accept the proposed 2016 budget, with the amendment “to be presented to the congregation” **Accepted unanimous voice vote.**

Discussion centered around the need to express to the congregation that we have created programs and services at an increased cost and we need the congregation to increase their giving to support that approximately 10% increase in need of their giving to cover the loss of the Ducommun bequest. The largest expense is personnel so the only big opportunity is if someone were to quit. Next year, if we don't get more giving, we will be presenting cuts to the budget/a deficit budget. It's expected that Council leads and presents a balanced budget as well as proposals to solve it- give them the support/cheering that “we can do this” in order to help it materialize. We wish to sustain this level of growth. Grants, other bequests can be other kinds of income- not just the annual appeal- we have the capacity to find this/ “let's do this” kind of attitude.

Ruth Roland gave an amendment that if we want to present a balanced budget, we need an interfund transfer of \$6,000 (which will probably come from the temporarily restricted funds). **Approved by voice vote.**

Motion: To approve \$25,000 housing allowance for Benjamin Broadbent and \$30,000 for Jacque Franklin. **Approved by voice vote.**

Motion: To adopt a corporate resolution authorizing (Moderator) Lee Lehmkuhl, (Vice Moderator) Connie Brachtenbach, (Treasurer) Mike Gemm, and (Secretary) Lisa Mason to perform specific financial actions detailed in the resolution on behalf of First Congregational Church on January 14, 2016 and be effective January 31, 2016. **Approved by voice vote.**

Motion: To appoint Lance Carroll, John Felts, Blake Pelton, and Lynne Stefonik to a three-year term on the Mission, Giving & Outreach Committee, and Lee Tatum and Charlotte Bundgaard to an additional one-year term beginning February, 2016. **Approved by unanimous voice vote.**

The schedule for the Annual meeting was reviewed. Quorum will be 72.

Break: 7:56-8:06pm

The Strategic Plan of late last year was reviewed. Ben Broadbent suggested giving an update on each goal in February, plus everyone could give a deeper dive semiannually starting at the staff/council retreat.

Leadership Retreat - Feb 20.

Council members are suggested to invite the heads of the committees and teams they liaison with - ministry and core resource areas. The Lead Minister leads this retreat (the Moderator leads the Council & Staff retreat) and would like to expand on:

- 1) Just Peace
- 2) Safety issues (there is a task force that is normally headed by the Vice Moderator which Connie will be working on to get up to speed on).
- 3) Strategic Plan

Meeting Evaluation:

- Benjamin Broadbent liked the flow at the beginning of the meeting regarding Judy's segment giving Grace.
- Connie and John jumping in with feedback was appreciated.
- Julia's financials presentation was very helpful and full of grist.
- Putting Ministry areas at the top of the agenda was a good way to start and not get rushed at the end.
- Chris liked the soup!
- Ben appreciated Lee's balance of letting discussion flow vs shepherding us back on track.
- Rehearsal for the Annual Meeting is 9:00 am the Saturday before.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Mason, Secretary

Lee Lehmkuhl, Moderator