

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (FCUCC)
OF COLORADO SPRINGS
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

February 9, 2017, Gregg Library

Council Members in Attendance:
Connie Brachtenbach (Moderator)
Scott Tetrick (Vice Moderator)
Lisa Mason (Secretary)
Mike Gemm (Treasurer)
Chris Reimer (Worship & Spiritual Life)
John Beavers (Education)
Lynne Stefonik (Care and Fellowship)

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

Ex Officio Absent:
None

Council Members Absent:
Alyce Morgan (Outreach)

Guests:
Jan Johnson – Co-Chair Search Committee
Gloria Latimer- Leadership Cultivation
Committee

Ex Officio in attendance:
Rev. Nayiri Karjian

Dinner thanks to Judy and Lee, and Grace and Devotional thanks to Lynne

Meeting called to order - 6:40 pm

Dinners & Devotionals for this year:

March- Chris, April- Mike, May- Scott, June-Alyce, Aug.- Lisa, Sept- Ruth, October-
Connie, Nov.-John, Dec.-Lynne, Jan.- Lynne, Jan- Potluck and everyone brings a
thought/quote for the day

Onboarding for Lynne and Scott - previously done

SEARCH COMMITTEE - JAN JOHNSON:

Jessica Gemm posted a digital version of the draft of the church profile. The Search Committee will do a group edit in their next meeting. They'll send it through to Nayiri and then it goes to Rev. Sue Artt – Conference Minister of the Rocky Mountain Conference (RMC) of the UCC. Sue and Nayiri then guide the next phases which share the profile with the Council and the Congregation. Nayiri suggested ways to get the profile reviewed and get feedback from the Congregation. One Congregation member expressed concerns about the moving expenses for a new lead pastor since the budget is tight. It is already in the budget. The Search Committee has also heard a hue and cry for the return of Coffee Hour and also heard to bring back the Labyrinth. A Labyrinth session is scheduled for Lent, March 25th. Chris asked if the pastor opening is advertised

and Jan confirmed it is. It is posted thru UCC but it is not accepting applications until we send in our profile.

ANNUAL MEETING:

Review of the minutes – Linda Cummings played the organ.

John thinks it is important to include Jerry Jordan’s remark of thanking Nayiri.

SAFETY TASK FORCE:

They are creating a draft to present to Council in March. In April they will release the Safety Task Force information: we need a sidewalk ministry to watch traffic flow, classroom standards, i.e. venetian blinds, door locks, need addressing. All this will be coordinated with the Facilities Team. Do we want a paid security guard? We are walking a middle ground between awareness and vigilance.

WORSHIP & SPIRITUAL LIFE:

Chris states that we are close to hiring an organist

Ruth - presented the Corporate Resolution to certify the current officers the ability to sign checks.

It was moved by John to accept the Corporate Resolution. Scott seconded it. It was approved by voice vote.

Ruth also passed out the Conflict of Interest policy for Council members to attest to. She updated the funding gap information- as of 2017 the budget vs pledge income is up \$30k. Mike announced we are also starting a Mini Matching appeal titled Returning Gifts, Repairing Hearts, Restoring Community to increase engagement of new and existing donors. It will be announced thru the Communicator, e-mail and the offering announcement. The matching gifts challenge comes from 4 families (based on the challenge made by Marcie Mayer during the Annual Meeting) to new and increased gifts plus some individualized asks from those older (over 50) who have not pledged. Only a small percentage of the younger households pledge so reaching out to them will be addressed in more generation specific ways. Gifting part of your tax refund as another idea was mentioned. We will celebrate the giving on Easter.

Nayiri - The White Privilege conversation doesn’t end at Epiphany. *With God we will witness returning, repairing, restoring hearts and community.* During Easter she is considering interfaith associations: a Jewish rabbi, a Muslim leader, etc. to preach. Shall we declare ourselves a Sanctuary church? We need to put that in front of the Congregation for them to take ownership. Ruth says there are grant applications to RMC (\$5,000 “in the mud” grants) to bolster our Family Promise program by putting in showers and expand into being a Sanctuary Church for undocumented immigrants seeking sanctuary. Pastors Nayiri and Jacque will need to plan more regarding the issues of being a Sanctuary Church.

Scott moved to submit the above grant application. John seconded it. Approved via voice vote.

We are close to hiring an organist. Both finalists, well-liked by all, will also be offered the Office Administrator position as well. Fiscally, the combined position makes Mike much more comfortable with this year's and the 2018 budget.

The ordination of Jeff Dodson is Feb 26, the same day as Sue Artt preaching and the Opportunity Fair. Coffee with the Pastors will start beginning March. For June 9, the Illinois Conference UCC has requested Nayiri to go to Elmhurst College, a UCC College to present.

Break: 7:48-8:02

JANUARY MINUTES

Chris moved to accept the minutes. Seconded by John. Approved by voice vote

Nayiri reviewed the agenda for this month's Leadership Retreat. Mike will lead a part to look at the next set of strategic imperatives. Is the vision still alive, do the values still resonate? That review with our lay leaders will gather input for our May Council Retreat (May 20 - 8:30 am breakfast/begin at 9am, location TBD by staff) to lay the foundation for our new Moderator and for a new pastor.

Jacque offered that her CCRC members now are David Bribach, Mark Qualls, Marti Booth, Lucy Schick, Connie Raub, and Frank Jopp.

The Council meeting for April will be April 11 at 6:30 due to conflict with Maundy Thursday on the 13.

Meeting Evaluation-Good meaty topics and discussion. Congratulations to Mike on how he handled the Budget portion of the Annual Meeting.

Adjournment: 8:49 pm

MOVED BY SCOTT. JOHN SECONDED THE MOTION. APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE.

Respectfully submitted
- Lisa A Mason, Secretary