

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

March 8, 2018, Gregg Library

Council Members in Attendance:

Connie Brachtenbach (*Moderator*)
Scott Tetrick (*Vice Moderator*)
Lisa Mason (*Secretary*)
Mike Gemm (*Treasurer*)
Gloria Latimer (*Education*)
Adam Gibbs (*Worship and Spiritual Life*)
Wayne Bland (*Outreach*)

Ex Officio in Attendance:

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

Ex Officio Absent: None

Council Members Absent:

Lynne Stefanik (*Care and Fellowship*)

Guests:

Glenn Pressman, Trig Bundgaard
(*Blackbird Outreach*)
Jessica Gemm
(*Leadership Cultivation Committee*)

Dinner, Grace and Devotional was provided thanks to Mike.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER - 6:26 pm

BY-LAWS CHANGE:

Connie reviewed the details and agenda for the upcoming Special Meeting of the Congregation scheduled for March 11, 2018 at 12:15 PM. This meeting has only one agenda item, which is to change the Constitution/Bylaws to Gender-Neutral language. A quorum of 69 will be needed and Lisa will be responsible to establish the quorum based upon members present at the meeting. During the meeting, each amendment will be brought forward individually by Council members. Each motion needs to be voted on separately. A 2/3 majority vote of the members attending will be required to pass each amendment by counting a hand vote. Nora Gustafson, Church parliamentarian, will be present to monitor that *Robert's Rules of Order* are adhered to throughout the meeting.

Connie shared her learnings from the debriefing of the Annual Meeting with Nora Gustafson. Council members also shared their thoughts/perspectives related to the Annual Meeting. Additionally, Connie summarized the "Just Peace"/Faith Formation conversations that Scott Tetrick, Rich Law and Steve Brown facilitated related to the Gender-Neutral language amendments.

FEBRUARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES:

It was moved by Gloria and seconded by Adam that Council accept the February 2018 minutes as written. The motion was approved unanimously by Council via voice vote.

LEAD MINISTER:

Pastor Heather reported on an exercise led by Nancy Henjum at the Leadership Retreat that was held February 10. This exercise allowed attendees to write down questions that they had about leadership issues onto sticky notes. Those questions were sorted into categories and Pastor Heather then brought those questions to the Staff to address. Staff highlighted those important to them and then selected the 4 or so that rose to the top in priority. Pastor Heather then invited Council to also prioritize these questions so that she could utilize this information to guide how she wants to move FCUCC forward in her ministry. From this process, the questions that rose to the top as high priorities were:

- 1) How do we create connections within FCUCC?
- 2) How do we better capture the skills within the Congregation?
- 3) What checks and balances are in place for Staff and Council in relationship to each other, leadership committees, and the Congregation?
- 4) What types of training exists for our leaders?
- 5) How are we preparing for a future surge of post-evangelical millennials?
- 6) How does all this tie into "Welcome, Witness and Wonder"?

At the February Council Meeting, Pastor Heather invited Council members to develop 30-second "Elevator Speeches" that would answer the question of who FCUCC is to someone who has never attended our church. Council members shared their speeches during this March meeting, along with what each Council member is excited about that is currently happening within Church or is a possibility for our future ministry.

CORE RESOURCE AND MINISTRY AREAS

Lisa asked for Scott to elaborate on what he wrote in his report as to why greeting a person is one of the more effective deterrents for preventing violence. Scott shared that this was one of his key takeaways from the FBI Active Shooter training he attended in February.

FINANCIAL REVIEW:

Ruth reported on the topic of 2018 giving, stating that focusing effort here has yielded very good growth. The impact of this growth has been seen in increases in the operating fund. Ruth also shared, that with the upcoming 150th anniversary of FCUCC, this is a great time/opportunity for an endowment planned-giving campaign. Ruth stated that we have engaged with Crescendo Interactive to provide professional marketing assistance for the next 3 years to help support this initiative, including signing a contract, at a total cost of \$9500. Ruth stated that "150 Gifts for 150 Years" might be the theme of this initiative. On behalf of Mike Gemm, Ruth reminded Council how important a resource Council will be to this process. Ruth also reminded Council of the upcoming "Thank-a thon" (to call and thank all those who have pledged or given gifts to the Church) for the week of March 18. Ruth will assign 14 phone calls for each Council member and she will also provide a script to assist with the calls.

LEAD MINISTER:

Pastor Heather discussed different options for the format of the LCC/Staff/Council Strategic Planning meeting scheduled for April 21. These options have emerged during consultations with Kimberly Sherwood (of Third Sector Group), a professional facilitator that the Church has utilized in the past for Strategic Planning retreats. Based upon these conversations, Pastor Heather believes we will not need to change our current strategic plan. However, what does need to be addressed is the fact that the whole ecology of the Church has changed and overall dynamics are shifting. Kimberly, along with another facilitator, will be providing the framework for this work during the day long retreat on April 21, 2018.

MODERATOR:

Connie gave additional information about the LCC/Staff/Council retreat on April 21, which will be held at FCUCC in the Founders' Room.

April 22 is Pastor Heather's installation at 3PM at the Church. Her installation will be followed by a reception.

The Rocky Mountain Conference Celebration (Annual Meeting) will be held June 7-10 at La Foret. Due to the size of our Church, we can send 7 voting delegates, whose registration will be paid for by the Church. Pastor Heather is planning to attend, along with 6 additional voting delegates. Council members Adam Gibbs and Lisa Mason volunteered to attend as delegates. Blake Pelton, Deb Buenting, Sue Scott, and Sid Shelton were also suggested as voting delegates.

MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE:

Pastor Jacque shared her initial plans for her upcoming Sabbatical in 2019. She will be applying to the Lily Foundation for funding, which has a deadline of April 13, 2018.

MEETING EVALUATION:

Gloria stated that she thought it was good that we followed up and discussed the questions that emerged from the Leadership Retreat. She also commented that the Council homework associated with writing our Elevator Speeches was good and helped make our meeting more than just about "making motions". Adam was thanked for providing the devotional and dinner.

The Closing Prayer was given by Connie.

Adjournment, with approval by Council consensus, occurred at 8:34 pm

Respectfully submitted by
- Lisa A Mason, Council Secretary


Lisa A Mason, Council Secretary


Connie Brachtenbach, Council Moderator

