

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

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**March 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)  
Alyce Morgan (Outreach)

Council Members Absent:

None

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

Guests:

Jill Robinson – Co-Chair Search Committee

Dinner and Devotional thanks to Chris

**Meeting called to order - 6:35 pm**

**Search Committee - Jill Robinson:**

Jessica Gemm posted a digital version of the draft of the church profile on the FCUCC website and the committee has been receiving feedback. The Search Committee will do a group edit in their meeting next week. They hope to have a final draft by the end of March. 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. It is posted thru UCC but it is not accepting applications until we send in our profile however there are already applications pending the position officially being opened. In the process, Sue recommends to check candidate references first. Once the Search Committee is in full agreement about the final candidate, they will navigate the covenant of bringing that person to the Council and then to the church. The process is going well and the committee is running very smoothly. They inadvertently missed this month's Communicator so they set up a system to not let that happen again.

**FEBRUARY MINUTES**

**Scott moved to accept the minutes and Chris seconded it. Approved by voice vote**

**ANNUAL MEETING:** Minutes review.

There was consensus to post them on the website as a final draft pending approval of the congregation during the 2018 Annual Meeting.

**EDUCATION:**

John - the JWW lectures can still use extra help with ushering so contact Gloria Latimer and Blake Pelton if you can help

**CARE AND FELLOWSHIP:**

Lynne says older congregants want more social time. Plymouth Circle (a women's group that was project oriented) - the chair feels overworked and few come. The Silver Threads Luncheon is popular, so much so, that they need to limit who can come so they bumped up the age limit to 75 but then some of the older congregants again felt left out. So do some of these ministries need to evolve, like Kitchen Witches?

**TREASURER:**

Mike - Chris' Worship and Spiritual Life report announced hiring an organist, David Acton. Kudos to Mandy and Nayiri on the hiring of David. Mike said the combined effect of David also filling the administrative position saves \$20k. Congregational Nurse - there is a lingering concern over liability. The consensus is that the concern is more staff based and so staff should address those concerns. Revenue/pledges are up and expenses are down-up a little on Mission Giving. Ruth had nothing to add.

**SECRETARY:**

Lisa brought up the possibility of buying the building on the NW corner of our block. Nayiri suggested its better left for the new pastor. It was suggested we create a task force to look into it though from a visioning standpoint.

Break: 7:45- 7:50

**INTERIM LEAD MINISTER:**

Nayiri - brought up the summary of responses from the Leadership Retreat from last month. These can be wishes and aspirations for the Council Retreat. It also has some aspirational topics. She wishes we had more of a *Culture of Gratitude*. The consensus was it was a good capture and could be a resource for strategic visioning. Nayiri also brought up the new logo/vision. She talked with Tiffany Schmid about expanding on a table logo that connects to our "*We will set the table...*" But the table would be round to represent the never-ending. Lastly, Del Hokanson and Emily Bond, (staff) will attend General Synod in Baltimore this summer.

We may skip June Council Meeting so many of us can attend RMC conference in Cheyenne, WY. The next Council meeting is April 11 at 6:30 pm instead of Thursday, April 13.

**MEETING EVALUATION:**

Lisa congratulated Nayiri on her impact on this church. Alyce likes hearing the words Just Peace at the beginning of the service. Congratulations to Connie on her style of moderating and how well the meeting proceeded despite the projector not working.

8:17 pm: Adjourned by consensus.

Respectfully submitted- Lisa A Mason, Secretary

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Lisa A Mason, Council Secretary

Connie Brachtenbach, Council Moderator

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