

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

May 11, 2017, Gregg Library

Council Members in Attendance:

Connie Brachtenbach (Moderator)
Scott Tetrick (Vice Moderator)
Lisa Mason (Secretary)
Mike Gemm (Treasurer)
John Beavers (Education)
Lynne Stefoniak (Care and Fellowship)
Alyce Morgan (Outreach)

Council Members Absent:

Chris Reimer
(Worship and Spiritual Life)

Ex Officio in attendance:

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

Ex Officio Absent:

Rev. Jacque Franklin
(Minister of Pastoral Care)

Guests:

Jan Johnson- Co-Chair Search
Committee

Grace, Dinner and Devotional thanks to Scott

Meeting called to order - 6:40 pm

Search Committee - Jan Johnson:

The Search Committee expressed gratitude to Council and the Congregation for their support. The Committee has been very consensually oriented. They had a technology based interview format that they test drove with Pastor Nayiri (but couldn't make the technology work). Next step will be references. They plan to meet twice a month (weekly was probably too much). They are hopeful about a couple of candidates.

April Minutes - Motion to approve the Minutes by John and seconded by Scott.

Approved by consensus.

Education - John:

JWW starts Friday at Shove, Sat. and Sun. at FCUCC.
Dinner 6pm at White's house, Saturday 5/13.

Vice-Moderator - Scott:

Regarding the grounds/front porch look - its coming and Scott will bring it to us. Starting on property procurement process of deciding what kind of properties (income producing vs growth vs move-in vs expand on current site, etc.) do we need so that if an opportunity arises we have a process in place.
Scott attended Sanctuary Church meeting May 9 and he wanted to have us be in alignment with the general values behind it. This will enable staff to know how to operate in that context.
FCUCC has been in contact with RoMoCo about this. Scott moved.

Motion: In keeping with our fundamental mission to provide extravagant welcome and as a Just Peace church, FCUCC fully supports the efforts of Sanctuary Church Coalition in Colorado Springs, and expects to provide support for the definition efforts and the actions our co-travelers take. The Church Council authorizes the expression of this support in the actions of our volunteers and in press releases. We also authorize the determination of the next steps in our church's role in the sanctuary process, and will bring this information to the congregation for its consent. **Seconded by John. Approved via voice vote.**

Outreach - Alyce:

Blake's doing a good job with MGO following in Sky Foerster's footsteps.

Mike wanted to revisit one of Scott's comments about the property for sale on the NW corner of our block. Mike is concerned about the potential slowness of movement on looking into the property. It may be a missed opportunity. Should we visit the building and expedite the process? Pastor Nayiri suggested do the work/set the foundation to have the new pastor do fundraising for this kind of project. Scott said all they have done so far is brainstorming. Consensus was to have a group of 3 team go visit the place for sale to see if there is an opportunity there that needs action.

Emily Bond:

We are changing and updating (it has been 5 years since the last time) the website-more user friendly, simpler to navigate and better orientation especially to someone who is new. We purchased a new design company program that speaks "churches" in order to simplify (currently 4 pages organizationally but reduced now to slightly less than 2 but still has all the same stuff). Tiffany Schmid is coming up with a new logo. (The one we talked about last month was not for a yearly theme but is more for the church's logo which is still under development.) Emily gave us a preview before the website it goes live in approx. 1 week.

Secretary:

Lisa thanked Council for voting to approve the updated Risk Reduction documents. Emily Bond has implemented them.

Finance: Mike/Ruth:

"We are crushing it! Finances look good." We are tracking well ahead. Staff have been discussing when folks drop cash in the offering plate where to allocate this revenue. The staff suggested to just make it MG&O income. It was suggested to call it Change for Change and the loose cash could go to, each month, a particular featured non-profit with the default always being MG&O. Approx. \$12.5k. This might inspire people to put more in the offering plate. There is momentum to delegate this to staff and MG&O to launch this summer.

So moved by Alyce to delegate this concept to staff. Seconded by Lynne. Approval by consensus. Ruth can delineate the particulars.

Interim Lead Minister - Nayiri:

June 8-11 Cheyenne, WY. is the location for the next Rocky Mountain Conference (RoMoCo). Lisa volunteered to go as a delegate. Jacque is going as an ordained representative/clergy. Logan Bennett, seminary graduate, wants to go. We can send two lay delegates. There was consensual agreement to have Logan attend / Tiffany Schmid is still working on the logo for this next year's theme. Pastor Nayiri is inviting Arshad Yousufi to preach the last Sunday in April for some interfaith enrichment.

Anya Powers has a calling for Air Force chaplaincy. She met with the Discernment team. She is currently working a contract position in Asheville, NC. She will go to Yale School of Divinity and then serve in the Reserves and then will be an active Duty Chaplain. After hearing her story we requested the Southeast Association of the RoMoCo receive Ms Powers as member in discernment and grant her that status.

Scott made a motion for the above request and John seconded it. Approved by voice vote.

Break: 7:45- 7:50

Treasurer - Mike:

Nayiri's contract is usually a year but Nayiri said it can be extended- it reads so that she can stay until a new lead minister is settled.

Interim Lead Minister:

Nayiri - regarding the Leadership Retreat:

1. Discuss the theme for the year (With God we will []).
2. Review the Strategic Plan and what areas still need attention. Connie and Nayiri saw that most of it is in place but the discipleship section may need to be revisited. Then take a break. After the break, fine tune the organizational structure. Then evaluate the ministries of the church regarding value and effectiveness. Lunch at 12:30. Evaluate where we are and how we are doing with the Interim process. Any priorities from Ruth and Mike especially for summer months would be last. 8:30 Gathering and program starts at 9 and ends at 2. Retreat is for Church Council, Staff and LCC.

Nayiri wanted feedback about when we had a Muslim preacher. John said he only heard good things. Nayiri is getting lots of requests from outside the church wanting talks about Syria. She is also working on the staff structure for the staff retreat esp. in the context of the new admin. asst. that will come on board in July.

Updates/Assorted Announcements:

JWW is this weekend. Peter Rollins is the guest speaker - quite cerebral.

Next meeting is July at Alyce's but go ahead and turn in your respective reports in June. We will skip June due to Romoco.

Meeting Evaluation: Fun as always. Different tenor with Connie at the helm and it is a wonderful tenor/feeling so kudos.

Adjournment: by consensus at 8:10 pm

Respectfully submitted- Lisa A Mason, Secretary

Lisa A Mason, Council Secretary

Connie Brachtenbach, Council Moderator
