

**First Congregational Church United Church of Christ (FCCUCC)  
of Colorado Springs  
Minutes of the Council Meeting  
June 11, 2020 via Zoom**

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Council Members in Attendance:

Bill Kemp (Moderator)  
Paul McNeill (Vice Moderator)  
Adam Gibbs (Worship & Spiritual Life)  
Lisa Mason (Secretary)  
Wayne Bland (Outreach)  
Polly Strovink (Treasurer)  
Laura Pfender (Education)  
Margaret Reiber (Care & Fellowship)

Ex Officio in Attendance:

Dr. Donald Longbottom  
(Transitional Lead Minister)

Ex Officio Absent:

Rev. Jacque Franklin - on sabbatical  
(Minister of Pastoral Care),  
Position vacant (Director of Financial  
Ministry)

Council Members Absent: None

Guests: None

Prayer: Dr. Don

**Meeting called to order - 6:06 pm**

**MINUTES**

- The minutes for the May Council meeting were reviewed with corrections noted.
- **MOTION:** Margaret moved the Minutes be approved as corrected. Wayne seconded. The motion passed unanimously via hand vote.

**MODERATOR/NEW BUSINESS**

- The Human Resource (HR) Committee, especially with lots of input from Eric Ridings has created a new job description for the administrator portion of the Director of Financial Ministry.
  - With input from Emily Bond, Ruth Roland, and Dr. Donald Longbottom the HR Committee replaced the Director of Financial Ministry position (the job that Ruth Roland performed) with two separate positions: a part-time accountant, and (initially) a part-time Administrative Assistant.
  - Other supervisory responsibilities that used to be performed by Ruth were moved to Emily.
  - It was decided that once Ruth ends her support as accountant, the plan is to contract out the accounting tasks.
  - These tasks were effectively divided into 2 with the supervisory positions going to Emily (especially after Ruth stops filling in part-time this summer). At that point Council will consider contracting out the accounting tasks.

- HR also plans to rewrite Emily's job description to reflect the many tasks she has assumed. In-depth discussion ensued.
- Due to the loss of some significant skill sets that Ruth has covered in the past, which will not be included in any of the new job descriptions, it was stated that the Stewardship Team will need to assume some of the philanthropic skill sets used to perform if possible.
- Another significant task that will need to be addressed is establishing a proposed budget for next year, which used to be done by Ruth.
- This task will be especially significant for next year's budget.

## **MINISTRY AREA REPORTS:**

### **CARE AND FELLOWSHIP (MARGARET REIBER)**

- Margaret expressed how grateful she is and thanked Council for covering 255 "thank-you" calls to those congregants that contributed to the *Raise the Roof* giving campaign.
- The Stephen Ministry Team and Visitation Ministry Team are now contacting the rest of the congregation to see what needs people have and to give people inclusion.
  - Pastor Elizabeth Vincent is compiling a list of community resources.

### **TREASURER (POLLY STROVINK)**

- Polly summarized the topics and content of the budget information that will be presented to the Congregation at the special Congregational Meeting scheduled for June 16.
- The details were covered in an additional Council meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup> (presented via Zoom format). Polly thanked all the Council members for their time during that meeting.

### **OUTREACH (WAYNE BLAND)**

- MGO has awarded \$38,000 in grants to 14 organizations plus support to La Puente.
- Homelessness, Mental Health and Family Stabilization were the themes of the grant awards. Funds were also awarded to One Nation Walking.
- There are still openings for the spiritual retreat at St. Francis Center in Peregrine that will be held at the end of July/early August.
- ESM has permanently closed; therefore downtown churches have no formal responsibility to this organization any more but also no outlet to help the populations that ESM served. There is now a void to be filled.
  - ESM board has not decided how to disperse the assets, in particular the building.

### **WORSHIP AND SPIRITUAL LIFE (ADAM GIBBS)**

- Summer is normally a break time for the Music and Arts Ministry Team, but they are still holding ZOOM meetings (David will be on vacation during June).
- The choral presentation was moved to July with the format probably being video-recorded music.

### **VICE- MODERATOR (PAUL MCNEILL)**

- The Reopening Task Force has as their mission, how to conduct in-person worship indoors when the decision is made to open before a vaccine is available.
- Air movement in the building is a problem.
  - Air movement is different depending on if it is summer or winter with each season and room creating its own set of difficulties to address.
  - Airflow is different in each area: Sanctuary, Founders' Room, Atrium, and Admin. building.
  - Jerry White, congregant and physicist, is studying the airflow topic.
  - Outdoor events or services will be looked at differently than indoor events.
  - The taskforce recommends the congregation receive a letter about the current status of reopening.
  - Re-opening is based on keeping the more/most vulnerable safe.
  - The taskforce wondered if a response from the congregation, a reflection of their sentiment regarding reopening, reopening ideas would be useful.
  - A Survey Monkey or a Zoom opportunity might be used to collect this information.

### **TRANSITIONAL LEAD MINISTER (DR. DON)**

- The current online worship services format is dropping in viewership.
- There has been an Open and Affirming Zoom meeting however major attendees that would normally represent those groups/topics have not been participating.
- June 26-29 - Dr. Don is moving his residence from Texas and so will be unavailable.
- He reported that staff has been doing a great job.

### **MEETING EVALUATION**

- The individual ministry email reports have been good.
- Bill is enjoying the participation/discussion he is hearing from Council members.
- Bill was congratulated on how he is handling the Moderator position.

Closing Prayer: Adam

Adjourned by consensus 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by Lisa A Mason, Council Secretary