

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

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**November 8, 2018, Gregg Library**

Council Members in Attendance:

Connie Brachtenbach (Moderator)  
Lee Lehmkuhl (Vice Moderator)  
Lisa Mason (Secretary)  
Adam Gibbs (Worship & Spiritual Life)  
Julia Nace (Treasurer)  
Lynne Stefonik (Care & Fellowship)  
Gloria Latimer (Education)

(Minister of Pastoral Care)

Ex Officio Absent:

None

Council Members Absent:

Wayne Bland (Outreach)

Guests:

Jill Cameron and Stephanie Brown  
(Leadership Cultivation Committee -  
LCC),  
Aaron Brown (prospective Education  
council member)  
Shelby Bobst & Steve Marken (Pike's  
Peak Community Foundation - PPCF).

Ex Officio in Attendance:

Rev. Heather Haginduff  
(Lead Minister)  
Ruth Roland  
(Director of Financial Ministry)  
Rev. Jacque Franklin

Dinner, Grace and Devotional was  
provided thanks to Connie  
Brachtenbach.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:21pm**

**OCTOBER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

It was moved by and seconded by Lee Lehmkuhl that Council accept the October 2018 minutes as written. The motion was approved unanimously by Council via voice vote.

- The Leadership Retreat for next year was announced in the October minutes. This has since been cancelled.

**BYLAWS TASK FORCE (GLORIA LATIMER):**

- Gloria met with Pastor Heather and Connie to get clarity on the task at hand.
- Nora Gustafson and Linda LeMieux are on this Task Force.
- John Beavers agreed to review suggested revisions from the task force.
- The Task Force has done a high-level walk through and identified about 15 items - typos, grammar, etc... which can be changed without Council or Congregational approval as the Bylaws allow that type of correction.
- Changes that will likely go to the Congregation include changes to the membership area and proxy voting.
- The Task Force may eliminate a committee listed in the Bylaws. Once they have drafts of these changes, they will present them to Council.

- Historical Note: the first Bylaws for this church were written in 1874 and Chris Steenbergen, Church Historian, provided a scanned copy to the Task Force.

#### **GUESTS - PIKE'S PEAK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION:**

- Shelby Bobst: The PPCF has concluded 5 community workshops in the Colorado Springs community (Ruth Roland was present at these workshops and shared a lot of knowledge as well as a video about FCC).
- PPCF will now host prospective endowment clients in February.
- Those prospects may then go on to participate in the endowment process.
- Steve Marken: *"Ruth is fantastic!"*
- In building a collection of endowments one is creating assets that last in perpetuity.
- *"We can't take it with us so what will our final statement in life be?"*
- Discretionary income from our congregants covers expenses and most congregational giving comes from there.
- However, substantial wealth for organizations like FCC usually comes from estate-generated endowed wealth, ie., the property in the estate, the stocks etc.
- Creating an endowment doesn't take away wealth, but rather it helps that wealth transfer to where you want it to go after your death.
- These transfers can be deferred gifts as well as life-income generating gifts.
- Steve suggests one or two Council members go through the process so Council can come back to the congregation and tell the congregation what the process is actually like.
- We hope to have approximately 8 congregants take part and to then go on to create bequests.

#### **CORE RESOURCE AREAS:**

#### **LEAD MINISTER (HEATHER HAGINDUFF):**

- Rev. Jim White sent Council an e-mail raising his theological concerns about our decision to have a Sanctuary Keeper.
  - o Pastor Heather gave a theological response to Jim's e-mail.
  - o Connie invited discussion from Council.
  - o Pastor Heather will write an article for the December issue of The Communicator - addressing the issues raised about this topic. She will also email a reply to Jim regarding the Council's response.
- FCC has a person on the registered sex offender list who wants to attend our church.
  - o Pastor Heather and Candace are meeting with Dennis Kleinsasser who has a background in child abuse and serves on the Risk Reduction Team.
  - o Our policy seeks to balance reconciliation for the offender while also protecting our congregants, especially our children.

- Pastor Heather read part of our policy that addresses this situation with specific risk reduction measures.
- The offender's probation officer is also an active participant in the offender's request process.
- Congregations Alive! 4 will take place in Denver Feb 7-9
  - Congregations Alive! (an RMC event) addresses how congregations can bolster resources and she suggests Council attend. Rev. Traci Blackmon (UCC) is the Keynote Speaker.


**TREASURER (JULIA NACE):**

- The Cash Projection Worksheet indicates a "rolling cash balance" of over \$100,000 through December 2018.
- Connie called for an Executive Session, seconded by Lee. Council approved via voice vote. Guests and ex-officio Council members were excused with the exception of the Lead Minister.

**ADJOURNED** at 8:35 pm

Closing prayer by Lynne

Respectfully submitted by  
Lisa A. Mason, Council Secretary

  
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Lisa A Mason, Council Secretary

 1/31/2019  
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Connie Brachtenbach, Council Moderator

