

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

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**July 13, 2017, Alyce Morgan's Residence**

Council Members in Attendance:

Connie Brachtenbach (Moderator)  
Scott Tetrick (Vice Moderator)  
Lisa Mason (Secretary)  
John Beavers (Education)  
Chris Reimer (Worship & Spiritual Life)  
Alyce Morgan (Outreach)

Ex Officio in attendance:

Rev. Nayiri Karjian  
(Interim Lead Minister)  
Rev. Jacque Franklin  
(Minister of Pastoral Care)  
Ruth Roland  
(Director of Financial Ministries)

Council Members Absent:

Mike Gemm (Treasurer)  
Lynne Stefonik (Care and Fellowship)

Ex Officio Absent: None

Guests: Jan Johnson and Jill Robinson -  
Co-Chair Search Committee.

- Grace, Dinner and Devotional thanks to Alyce

**Meeting called to order - 6:46 pm**

**Search Committee - Jan Johnson and Jill Robinson:**

The Search Committee has three candidates and two in particular that they are very interested in. Rev. Sue Artt - Conference Minister of the Rocky Mountain Conference (RMC) of the UCC, Connie Brachtenbach and Rev. Jacque Franklin have been included in these most recent steps. Two candidates will come to Colorado Springs on separate discernment weekend dates with the candidates' families present too but the committee also continues to receive applications. Jill and Jan described the committee as robust and rich. Sue Artt has been quite useful and joyful to work with. Scott presented the idea of aligning advocates that the congregation can connect with once a candidate has been announced. Advocates/stakeholders would automatically be the Search Committee, the Council, Staff and probably LCC, some elders and some youth.

**May Minutes - Motion to approve the Minutes.**

**Approved by consensus.**

**Vice Moderator - Scott:**

Follow up on the visit to the building that is for sale on the NW corner of our block. The cost - \$3.5 million for the building by itself is probably way too high but if we rented some of it out it may be more accessible. Mike and Ruth met with two attorneys and they recommended to collaborate with various community foundations. Ruth and

Mike have been contacting various organizations to see if there is interest in that path. Many have been interested. Collaboration is currently a very strong topic with foundations. Tax-exempt financing is a very positive possibility. He mentioned Synod which voted on 20 plus resolutions. It was recommended to go online and check in on them via UCC or RMC.

### **Worship and Spiritual Life - Chris:**

Chris thinks we should create a focus group to help actually define/redefine the Council position of Worship and Spiritual Life. Regarding the Safety Group - they are focusing on the actual definition of a "safe sanctuary" so the group would be more like a hospitality ministry with an overlay of a security guard; a Momma Bear team/Sanctuary Gatekeepers. It needs to be consistent with the culture of the FCUCC.

### **Outreach - Alyce:**

Alyce asked about the status of the project of installing showers. (The cost is about \$5k and it would come out of the MG&O budget). - Ruth explained that RMC encouraged us to apply for funding for a shower/probably a matching grant. Scott then explained more about the Coalition for Sanctuary (and if someone sought sanctuary at FCUCC we would need showers to help with their housing need). There have been lots of questions so Scott will create an FAQ document. Ruth has documents from the Coalition to help clarify things.

### **Secretary - Lisa:**

Lisa reported on the Rocky Mountain Conference Annual Celebration in Cheyenne, WY. RMC has developed a leadership development 9-month course called RMC Ignite. It is for lay or clergy. It is both on-line and in classroom a couple times in the 9 months. It can be seen at RMCignite.com. there are grants available through the "In the Mud" program. The 2018 Clergy Compensation Guidelines were tabled and sent back to the committee as RMC attendees couldn't, in good faith, endorse some of the guidelines for our smaller churches as the pastor compensation is under the US Poverty Guidelines. The Sunday schedule was abbreviated so that all attendees could go march in and show support for Cheyenne's first Gay Pride Parade.

### **Finance - Ruth:**

We are doing well. The audit of 2016 went well. It is finalized. There were just a few management controls that Mike and Ruth adjusted to appease the auditors.

### **Interim Lead Minister - Nayiri:**

The reality is we could have a new minister in 6 months so Nayiri is considering what to prioritize for the next 3-6 months. She is considering having small staff teams to facilitate a visioning process. She didn't realize how much she missed having an admin. person until yesterday by having David Acton, our new organist/admin. assistant now in place. He seems happy and adjusting well - you only have to say something once.

Staff APR's need to be done and she'll do that. The Ecclesiastical Council will meet Aug 13 at 3pm for Logan Bennett. Nayiri invited the Council to make suggestions if there is something else she needs to do for us.

**Minister of Pastoral Care - Jacque:**

Jacque summarized the TESSA conference where the big focus is domestic violence. Lots of faith communities are involved with this topic. October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. With the Sanctuary Church movement, the Continuum of Care, etc. we seem to be "out there" in the community. And domestic violence is the number one reason for homelessness for women and children.

**Moderator - Connie:**

Connie asked that Council reserve three weekends for pastor candidate discernment weekends: September 15-17, October 13-15 and October 27-29. (Please note that in e-mails after this meeting the possible dates were changed to October 6-8, 13-15, 20-22, 27-29 and November 3-5) She also emphasized the highly confidential nature of **ANY** discussions about pastor candidates and discernment weekends!

**Meeting Evaluation:**

Connie recognized how much we all appreciate how significant and special Nayiri's gifts are. Jacque's gifts of being the connection to staff were acknowledged as well and Jacque feels very supported by the staff. Nayiri says she's learned you need to choose either process or procedure or progress. Nayiri wants the staff to feel empowered. Adjourned by consensus at 8:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted- Lisa A Mason, Secretary

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Lisa A Mason, Council Secretary

Connie Brachtenbach, Council Moderator

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