

Minutes of FCUCC Board Meeting

January 14, 2024

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF ASHEVILLE



Board Members: Chris Cain, Larry Burke, Peggy Grant, Maggie Thomas, Carol Austin-Janssen, Joanne Roudebush, and Chris Nealis

FCUCC's mission is to:

1. **Embody a forward-thinking, courageous, and diverse Christian community.**
2. **Follow the ways of Jesus the Christ as a grace-filled, spiritual congregation.**
3. **Practice affirming and radical hospitality.**
4. **Engage our local and global community with acts of love, mercy, peace, and justice.**

FCUCC's vision is to be an embracing community, public sanctuary, and prophetic Christian voice.

Moderator: Chris Cain

Start Time: 12:30 PM

Location: Room 204 at FCUCC

Note Taker: Kathleen Carter

Agenda:

12:30 Welcome & Facilitation – Chris Cain

The meeting was called to order at 12:30. The following were in attendance: Chris Cain, Peggy Grant, Maggie Thomas, Carol Austin-Janssen, Joanne Roudebush (remote), Chris Nealis, Rev. Derryberry, Jerry Dillashaw, Rollin Russell, Jane Stoffer, Bev Reddick.

12:35 Devotion – Chris N

Consent Agenda (if a report is provided)

12:40 Approval of Minutes from Dec 10, 2023

One correction made – Kathleen C will update and send corrected version to be published.

12:45 Pastoral Report

12:50 Plans and Proposals for Ministries calendar sheet and annual action plan

12:55 Approval of EOM December Financial Report

1:00 Personnel Committee Report

1:05 Approval of December Building and Grounds Report

Discussion Agenda

1:10 Relational Covenant – What does this group need from the Board today?

The document name will revert to “Behavioral Covenant”, which is more recognizable to pastoral candidates.

1:25 What is the information on pricing for upcoming audit, and how to pay for the audit – Chris C

Questions from Marie:

“I would need additional information about your books. How do you maintain your books? Are they in Quickbooks or a program?”

I would like to make sure the Board is certain the type of financial report they are requesting. There are 3 types; a compilation in which the financial statement is provided including bank reconciliations and reconciliations of the income and expenses but no auditing is performed; a review in which I check a random sampling of the income and expenses. I would contact a random number of vendors and donors but only a random sample to ensure the books appear to be accurate. Lastly is the audit but this entails contacting each of the donors and each of the vendors to ensure all income and all expenses are accurate. This can be very time intensive and costly.”

The church books are maintained in QuickBooks.

Chris C will ask for an estimate based on the middle choice, random sampling. If we see issues in that, we can consider getting the comprehensive audit.

How many vendors do we have? Andrea would know.

How many donors do we have? 67 pledge units, people who donate to various ministries, plate donations, memorial donations, ... Joanne estimates 75-100.

Note that the expense of the audit will be not just the auditor but additional hours for the church's finance person.

1:35 Land Acknowledgement Statement – Are we good bringing this to a vote at the January meeting? (Per the request of Donna Miller)

The Board approved bringing the statement as provided to a vote at the January meeting.

1:55 2024 Proposed Budget – Joanne

Joanne proposed increasing the personnel budget so that – if the Personnel Committee makes the suggested changes – the church will again qualify as a living wage employer. The Board approved. Joanne will send the revised budget to Chris C and Kathleen S.

Gene raised the issue of Our Church's Wider Mission: Candidates expect to see the church donating 5%-10%, but we show about 1%. Do we need to adjust our donation? Joanne suggested that we might need to stairstep in the right direction, going to \$10K. (The national average is \$2.40/member.) Might want to involve Rollin in the discussion.

The Board thinks that we should add an entry in the budget for an audit every three years, starting right now. Joanne says we might be able to fund it from the Trustee Account, and suggested having it in the budget every year (under 62100, Contract Services) at one third of the anticipated expense.

The Board approved the edited budget.

2:05 Rental Policy and Procedure

Topic deferred since Larry wasn't present.

2:20 Nomination Committee's Final Report

The Nominating Committee sent an email to the membership about what the Board needs – a future Moderator (initially a vice moderator) and a future Treasurer.

2:25 Build the 2024 Annual Meeting Agenda

Done.

2:30 Finish email regarding the Annual Meeting for Admin to send out

Done.

2:35 Any other items?

Future need: A Board member to be liaison with the Ministry Teams.

Gene commented that nowhere in the Ministry Teams vision statements did he see leadership training. They're going to start trying to come up with specific ideas, suggests that the Board consider the same issue.

Future need: Someone to handle Blue Ridge Pride marketing.

For the annual meeting: Quorum is about 30 people. Approval of the bylaws requires a two-thirds vote.

Should there be term limits on committee chairs?

Where does the Pastor/Parish Team fit on the organization chart? If there's something they can't work out, they are to come to Personnel first, then to the Board – this is not covered in the bylaws.

The vision statement says "FCUCC's vision is to be ... [a] public sanctuary". What do we mean by that? Maybe the new minister should address this.

Devotion next meeting: Gene

Closing next meeting: Gene

2:35 Closing Prayer and Adjourn – Peggy

The meeting adjourned at 3:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Carter