

# FCUCC Board Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2023: 1:00- (~)3:15

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF ASHEVILLE



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

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.

### PLEASE NOTE:

The Dropbox referenced in these minutes can be viewed at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/uf6mf0kkiweywsnmvgn0j/h?dl=0&rlkey=nj46mbh3ogsfnp52q2rurd87g>

**Moderator: Chris Cain**

**Start Time: 1:00 PM**

**Location: Room 204 at FCUCC**

**Note Taker: Carol Austin-Janssen**

### Agenda:

#### 1:00 Welcome & Facilitation – Chris Cain

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m. The following were in attendance: Joanne Roudebush, Chris Nealis, Maggie Thomas, Chris Cain, Peggy Grant, and Carol Austin-Janssen. Larry Burke joined the meeting via Zoom from Scotland.

**1:05 Devotion- Joanne**

### **Minutes of Board Meeting**

**1:10 Approval of Minutes from April 16, 2023, Board Retreat: Dropbox**

Verbally approved unanimously

**1:15 Pastoral Report: Dropbox**

Verbally approved unanimously

**1:20 Plans and Proposals for Ministries: Dropbox**

Verbally approved unanimously. The Board needs to discuss and decide on its plans for next year.

**1:25 Approval of EOM April Financial Report:**

Verbally approved unanimously. Joanne added that the "Greening of the Plate" has exceeded our expectations by about \$2,000 to date.

**1:30: Personnel Committee Report:**

Carol reported that there had not been a committee meeting since the last Board meeting. It was requested that the questions raised by the B&G Committee regarding substitutes during time off as well as a system for prioritizing tasks be addressed by the Personnel Committee. Carol agreed to contact John Whitener in order to schedule a Personnel Meeting soon.

**1:35 Approval of April Building and Grounds Report: Dropbox**

Verbally approved unanimously.

**1:40 Approval of April Transition Team Report:**

Item was tabled for the next meeting.

### **Discussion Agenda**

**1:45 Safe Conduct Policy and Procedure Review Approval of changes-Chris N and Joanne**

Joanne led a detailed discussion on this topic, during which the following questions were asked:

- Who do we have background checks on...staff, volunteers, the Board, renters?
- Who executes these checks? The Personnel Committee is responsible for background checks.
- We need a form for reporting suspected physical or mental abuse. What should this form include?

There were several suggestions regarding grammar and punctuation in this document. Maggie Thomas agreed to research some of the above questions via information Chris C. would share, and to edit this document for these items.

### **2:00 Security Team Revamp Discussion – Chris N**

This topic will be moved to the Building & Grounds Committee for discussion and finalizing.

### **2:10 Behavioral Covenant Discussion Continuation- Carol: Dropbox and this website (pp 6-9)** <https://wxq122.a2cdn1.secureserver.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/A-Sure-Foundation-Ethical-Codes-and-Behavior-Covenants.pdf>

In the interest of time, this item is being tabled until the next Board meeting.

### **2:25 By-laws Update B and G Standing Committee: - Roudebush**

Joanne has sent preliminary documents to the Board and asked that we review and give her feedback. This will be discussed at the June Board Meeting. The goal is to make this a standing committee instead of an ad hoc committee.

B & G discussion points:

- Pointing needs to be done to avoid further damage to the building. We currently do not have enough funds to cover this repair. Joanne asked that the Board come up with a plan. This committee will get estimates for the repair and insurance. It was also suggested that we consider a capital campaign for this item.

### **2:30 Endorsements / or just information in the newsletter**

Eric Lyons had asked us about this policy...what is our policy regarding endorsing community announcements. Should they be included in the newsletter, which could ultimately result in people inferring that FCUCC endorses them? What about gun safety, transgender, and other policies?

Joanne Roudebush, Chris Nealis, and Pastor Gene each responded to Eric stating the notices in the newsletter were just that—notices of upcoming events held by a fellow UCC church and Campaign for Southern Equality, an organization our church helped found and publicly supported. The notices were for information purposes and weren't statements of endorsement. The subjects of both notices were also issues the National UCC church supported and posted on their website. Pastor Gene also noted he personally supported these as moral issues that transcend political affiliation, and that he was always available to talk with him about the pastor's role in advocating for social justice issues. It was also pointed out when a question was brought to the Board or Pastor in the past about endorsing a piece of legislation (an environmental bill), that question was brought to the members in a congregational meeting for a decision.

### **2:45: Search Committee Update (ref. Nancy)- Chris C**

Frank Freeman has agreed to join this committee following the resignation of a member.

### **3:00 Update on Gene's final contract extension – Roudebush**

Gene Derryberry's covenant expires on June 9. We need to extend his covenant as discussed in previous Board Meetings (one year plus an additional two-week study leave). It was suggested that we appoint an advisory team of, say, 5 people, with two appointed by the Board and three appointed by Gene. This team would be called the Pastor Support group.

### **3:05 Note Taker Discussion: Dropbox – clerk description – Carol**

The suggestion was made that we ask for a volunteer from the congregation. Several names were mentioned. Chris Nealis agreed to contact them to see if any one of them is interested in taking on this task.

### **3:10: Finance Committee Member – Joanne**

Joanne reported that no new members have been added to this committee. Gene Derryberry had suggested that we email the congregation to recruit a volunteer.

Also, Joanne will not be leading the pledge commitment campaign. David Ourisman has agreed to do this. He had also expressed an interest in being the Stewardship Chair.

### **3:15 Any other items?**

Peggy had a discussion with a congregant, inquiring about FCUCC's interest in the possibility of connecting with community organizations in their efforts to achieve their goals. Would the Board be willing to discuss this at a future meeting?

There were additional questions asked and it seemed the congregant wanted to ask the church, or approach some members of the church, for donations to an organization he supported. The Board agreed this could be construed as a use of our membership list and it would not be appropriate, and the congregant should be so informed.

### **3:20 Closing Prayer and Adjourn: Chris**

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Austin-Janssen