

FCUCC Board Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2023: 12:30- (~)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/vb0q9jrm7ksbhkpyo0ai5/h?rlkey=9ig6h89jqaiserjwkluy52h&dl=0>

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 12:40. The following were in attendance: Chris Cain, Larry Burke, Peggy Grant, Joanne Roudebush, Chris Nealis, Rev. Derryberry.

12:35 Devotion – Chris N.

Consent Agenda (if a report is provided)

12:40 Approval of Minutes from Sept 10, 2023

Verbally approved unanimously.

12:45 Pastoral Report (Dropbox)

Verbally approved unanimously.

12:50 Plans and Proposals for Ministries calendar sheet (Dropbox)

Verbally approved unanimously.

12:55 Approval of EOM Sept. Financial Report (Dropbox)

Verbally approved unanimously.

Joanne will check with Andrea about why copier expenses are over budget when we have a lease.

1:00 Personnel Committee Report (Dropbox)

Moved to discussion agenda.

1:05 Approval of Sept. Building and Grounds Report (Dropbox)

Verbally approved unanimously.

Priorities:

Repair the narthex floor.

Put wood under the piano to reflect its sound.

Get the fire escape repainted (as directed by the fire marshal).

Get the bees out before resealing and repointing.

The person who was originally intended to deal with the fire escape has decided he can't handle it. Larry will ask him for a recommendation.

Chris N will get the name of the beekeepers group that helped at a different church.

1:10 Procedures on Policy – Chris N updated the policy and we voted via email.

Verbally approved unanimously.

Discussion Agenda

1:20 What is the information on pricing for next audit? – Joanne

Joanne talked to an accounting firm. To do a comprehensive audit, they estimate \$15K-\$20K. The bylaws call for an audit every three years but don't specify the type.

Joanne contacted Wade Simon. He doesn't do audits, but gave her two other names to call. Joanne will contact them.

Once we decide what kind of audit we need, Chris C will ask a CPA he knows for a price.

1:30 Based on the "Annual Ministry Proposals" goals: What are the thoughts on a "focus" for ministry in 2023-2024?

Would be better to discuss after the November joint meeting of ministry teams. Tabled until the December Board meeting.

1:40 What should the pastor's involvement be in receiving and pledging to the church?

A minister who asks can be told who has pledged, but not how much, according to Article XII Section 2 of the bylaws.

A minister is welcome to encourage pledging.

1:50 Do we approve the addendum to the collection policy (will be #7) on the finance policy? – Joanne

Chris C moved to approve as edited during the meeting, Chris N seconded, approved.

1:55 Behavioral Covenant – update: What support can we provide Carol and her team?

Tabled because Carol is absent.

2:00 Vote on Safe Conduct Policy and Procedure Training edits: Maggie was to send this to Kathleen and we should have voted on this via email.

Has been tentatively approved, but the Board members want to see the final version.

2:05 Stewardship Team Report – Chris N.

The Stewardship Team has updated the letter and pledge cards. Chris N will work with Kathleen and Joanne to prepare the mailing (including a return-addressed (but not stamped) envelope). The team may choose to hand address the mailing.

2:15 Collection Policy – Joanne

Done – see the 1:50 entry above.

2:30 Proposed rewrite of Finance policy 3, plus a recommendation for a related change to Finance policy 5 (Dropbox)

Joanne moved that we accept as edited, Chris C seconded, approved.

2:40 Rental Policy and Procedure – Larry

Tabled until next meeting so that Board members can read the digital copy.

2:45 What did the insurance say about the revised travel form for FCUCC and 21 years of age? – Joanne

Tabled until next meeting.

3:55 Yearlong Ministry Plans (from Kathleen) The Board should review in anticipation of their budget needs per Chris N. (Dropbox)

The Finance Committee is doing this.

3:00 Thoughts on Lorraine’s email about another committee to showcase “the best” works?

Gene will ask ministry teams if they want to consider doing a church retreat next year – if so, it could be about this theme.

The impetus for something like this should come from below, not from the Board. Chris C suggested to Lorraine that she discuss with Gene.

3:10 Any other items?

Several topics listed here were discussed earlier in the meeting.

Edited bylaws

Joanne moved to accept the bylaws as edited, Larry seconded, approved.

The revised bylaws will be presented to the congregation in preparation for the annual meeting.

Annual meeting

The annual meeting will be held January 21.

Chris C will get the meeting added to the church calendar.

Topics will include:

- Election of Board members

- Budget

- Bylaw changes

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee needs to be formed approximately three months before the annual meeting.

Chris N and Maggie are completing their terms, so two Board members need to be elected.

(Chris C, Carol, and Joanne have one more year. Larry and Peggy have two more years.)

Chris N will draft an email to be sent out regarding the Nominating Committee.

Perhaps Eric Lyons will chair the committee again?

Joanne will update a document listing the Board and Committee members and their terms and will give it to Kathleen to distribute.

Land Use Statement

Before adopting the land use statement, shall it be presented for approval at the annual meeting?

New email address for treasurer

Treasurer@uccasheville.org comes to the Treasurer and to Andrea.

Preparation for Board meetings

Board members will ensure that documents needed for each Board meeting are in the Dropbox at least two days before the meeting.

Personnel Committee recommendation

Reviewed. Chris N will request additional information from the committee.

Devotion at next meeting: Larry

Closing at next meeting: Peggy

3:15 Closing Prayer and Adjourn: Joanne

The meeting adjourned at 15:19.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Carter