

Minutes of FCUCC Board Meeting

May 14, 2024

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF ASHEVILLE



Board Members: Chris Cain, Larry Burke, Peggy Grant, Eric Barbour, Carol Austin-Janssen, Joanne Roudebush, and Cara Pollard

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: 5:00 PM

Location: FCUCC

Clerk: Kathleen Carter

5:00 Welcome & Facilitation – Chris

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. The following were in attendance: Chris Cain, Larry Burke, Peggy Grant, Eric Barbour, Carol Austin-Janssen, Joanne Roudebush, Cara Pollard, and Rev. Derryberry.

5:05 Devotion – Joanne

Input from Members / Teams

5:10 Bev Reddick – Proposal

Proposed that a small group assemble to design, for example, a banner on the church about getting out the vote. UCC program Our Faith Our Vote could be a great resource.

Consent Agenda (if a report is provided)

5:25 Approve Minutes from Board Meeting April 2024

5:30 Pastoral Report

5:35 Plans and Proposals for Ministries calendar sheet and annual action plan

5:40 Financial Report

The Finance Committee will meet this week to discuss the possibility of an interest bearing checking account.

5:45 Personnel Committee Report

The nursery needs volunteers so that two adults can always be present.

5:50 Building and Grounds Report

Discussion Agenda

5:55 Final version of the bylaws....(the versions on the website now match)

6:00 Pricing information for upcoming audit – Chris

Chris is again getting names for a potential auditor.

6:05 Graphic Design and Computer Tech students update – Chris

The student candidate suggested some changes, including:

The website includes about a terabyte of videos of services – which are also available on the FCUCC YouTube channel. We should keep the most recent on the website (as they are the most likely to be viewed), but could save significant storage expense by just directing people to the YouTube channel for the older videos.

The site could be moved to a different host, or we could just apply themes to what we have.

Perhaps invite the student to do a presentation at the next Board meeting, or on an earlier Zoom.

People frequently have trouble finding things on the member website. In addition to improving the usability of the site, perhaps some of these things (such as Board reports) should also be issued as email attachments.

Perhaps conduct a pilot of the new website, including people ranging from those who are comfortable with technology to those who aren't.

6:10 Review of board nominations input from Eric Lyons

The provided document was empty. Eric will send a new version. The Board can vote remotely.

6:15 Legacy gift

We expect to receive ~\$100K from an estate in the next thirty days.

What to do with it? Possibilities include:

- start an endowment
- pay down principal
- pay for an audit
- pay for the building to be sealed
- pay for a year of choir scholars
- or some combination – e.g. \$50K to endowment

The Finance Committee will come up with some proposals. If we create an endowment, will probably need a policy (or perhaps an addition to the bylaws) to specify, for example, under what circumstances the church could withdraw principal.

6:25 Policies on Policies – Review and Approval – from Carol

Approved with amendments.

For the next Board meeting, everyone prepare to discuss the baptismal policy and the conflict of interest policy.

6:30 Contract approval for Rollin

6:45 Eric's email regarding sermon dialogue

1. **Is this the right time for this conversation?**
2. **How does our mission / vision align to promoting "both sides" of controversial issues...**

Maybe have a designated table at Friendship time for discussing the sermon.

6:50 Spam Email avoidance Subject Line

7:10 Any other items?

The Pastor/Parish Committee met with Gene. As he's an interim: Do we need to set boundaries?

Gene's own typical boundaries: He won't return to the church for at least a year. If he converses with someone from the church, it won't be about the church, church policy, any pastor, any current business of the church – just personal relationships (including, for example, past shared experience on a committee).

Shall we continue with the Pastor/Parish Committee? Offer it as an option to the new settled pastor.

6:35 Doug Williams email – contribute to a bonus for the work that Gene has done

Doug suggested that an email could be sent out to all congregants to donate if they so choose. Joanne will ask Kathleen Stigmon to put an announcement in the newsletter.

Devotion next meeting: Chris

Closing next meeting: Eric

7:15 Closing Prayer and Adjourn – Peggy

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Carter