

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
JULY 26, 2022**

**In Attendance:** Pr. Becky David (Interim Sr. Pastor), Diann Moore (At Large), Marcella Armstrong (Spiritual Engagement), Heather Carlson (Clerk), Joshua Dyer (Council Chair), Sara Wynn (Outreach and Mission), Susi Llewellyn (Red Wagon), and Lindsey Spies (Minister of Faith Formation)

**Absent:** Abby Stickell (Christian Education), Steve Schippers (Building and Finance), and Barb Guss (At Large)

The Zoom meeting was called to order at 6:10PM following a prayer given by Joshua Dyer.

**Approval of**

**Minutes:** Diann Moore moved to approve the minutes from the June meeting. Sara Wynn seconded. Motion carried.

**Quick**

**Reports:**

**Pastor's Report**

- Pr. Becky submitted the following report:

Pastor's Report  
July 2022

Summer ushers in our summer worship in the fellowship hall. The reception has been split, predominantly between those who have attended and those who have not. Many have chosen not to come to share in weekly fellowship because they are not interested in worshipping outside the sanctuary. The feedback I have received from those in attendance however, has been positive. We are getting some good information from the Bible study portion of the service which I will be sharing with the congregation.

Personnel has conducted an interview for the music coordinator position and that process is moving forward. There is one and potentially a second candidate for Mason's position. Those interviews are being scheduled.

A reception for Mason will be held on his last Sunday, August 7th, after worship. Al Guss has assured me the choir will take lead on this.

The Design Team has been meeting and are planning a formal congregational meeting for August. At this meeting the congregation will be asked to choose from three potential paths forward. Unfortunately, this meeting has been scheduled when I cannot attend so I am hopeful Scott and the Design Team will be able to move the discussion toward an agreeable outcome.

Issues to be addressed

Amber O arrived early for the wedding on July 22 to find water leaking and tile material falling in the Plymouth Room bathroom. She contacted me and I came in and the two of us worked for an hour cleaning. We reached out to BF but no one was available to come in to address the situation so we were left with it. I find this totally unacceptable. It is not my job, nor do I care to do custodial and maintenance work. The same is true for Amber. Amber put in a ton of overtime the week before making sure the church was presentable for this wedding. There needs to be someone on call for events in case of a situation. There are other issues as well which I have forwarded to Personnel for resolution.

A few items of note...

- I officiated Herb Thompson's funeral on July 8
- I performed a wedding on July 23rd for John Croci and Sabrina Medley
- Amber Moore will be on vacation July 24-Aug 3rd. Tyler Mitchell will cover basic marketing and livestreaming in her absence

Upcoming Dates:

- Aug 7 - Mason's farewell
  - I will be on vacation from August 10-21. Worship will be led by Lindsey on the 14th and by Carol Holtz-Martin on the 21st. Michael Dyer will handle pastoral emergencies.
- Pastor Becky's Time OFF 2022

PTO - 25 days (calculated from a 5-day work week + the 5 remaining days of pto I did not use in 2021. In December I reported needing to carry 4 days forward but I did not get NYE off so I am carrying that forward as well)

- January 3 - observed for NY day (no pto)
- January 4-12 (7 days pto)
- January 16 (no pto. Trade off from MLK)
- January 18
- January 23 was my day off on January 24.
- March 7 worked my day off
- March 16-17 (2)
- 5 additional days added by council

This leaves my PTO at 14  
Personal Days (5)

Gratefully submitted,  
Pastor Becky

A lengthy discussion followed Pr. Becky's explanation of the water issues prior to the wedding last Saturday. Susi Llewellyn, a member of the Personnel Committee, said that Personnel is aware of the issues and will reach out to Building and Finance to set up a time when they can sit down and discuss how to move forward on this issue.

- **Spiritual Engagement:**

- o Marcella Armstrong reported on the following:

- Once worship service returns to our regular schedule, they will discontinue the monthly fellowship due to lack of volunteers to host it.
    - They are assisting in October communion with confirmands and their mentors in the preparation, serving, and clean-up of communion.
    - Mike Bealer took care of getting a new battery and tires for the bus.

**Building and Finance:** No report

**Outreach and Mission**

- Sara Wynn submitted the following report:

**O&M met in the Gathering Place on Tuesday 7/19**

**1) World Relief Food Pantry**

- On 7/8 4 adults and 9 youth picked up food at the River Bend Food Bank and delivered it to World Relief.
- On 7/11 2 adults and 2 youth helped at World Relief during the food pantry.
- On 7/19 O& M voted to contribute \$1750 from our budget plus the \$250 donated by the congregation to make a \$2000 sponsorship of the WR July food pantry.

**2) Red Wagon Day - Sunday, August 21st.**

**O&M is hosting a school supply drive for Red Wagon in July/August, presenting the supplies on 8/21. The wish list was posted in the Tower on 7/18 and the Bridge on 7/22. The materials are to be dropped off by 8/19. Please consider a donation.**

- **40 mm Googly Eyes (These are worth their weight in gold here.)**
- **Aleene's Original Tacky Glue**
- **Glue Sticks (Purple, Disappearing color is preferred)**
- **Washable Markers, Wide and Narrow**
- **All Purpose Glue Dots**
- **Crafter's Dot Glue Runner or Tape**
- **24 count crayons**

**Sara Wynn**

### **Red Wagon**

- Susi Llewellyn submitted the following report:  
Red Wagon Council Meeting

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Summer Session for 2022:

- a. We have 22 enrolled for the summer of 2022.
- b. Our projected income from June 1 st through August 31 st is \$54,055.
- c. Our School Year Session for 2022 is slated to begin on Monday, August 15 th .
- d. We have had a lot of fun field trips this summer.
  - i. Messing Around @ the Moline Public Library 6/6...lots of hands-on activities.
  - ii. Circa '21 Father's Day Celebration 6/17
  - iii. Skate City roller-skating 6/22
  - iv. Parade to the Police Station 6/29
  - v. Lagomarcino's 7/20
  - vi. Schwiebert's Sprinkler Park 7/27
- e. Red Wagon's Summer Break was 7/4 - 7/8
- f. Most of the staff have had an opportunity to take vacation during these summer months.
- g. Our gardens are doing VERY well.
- h. Final day of Summer Session is 8/10 with Thursday and Friday spent cleaning and prepping for 8/15.

In addition to the report, there was more discussion about the FOB policy. Red Wagon's policy has an additional tier for FOB use. Amanda Peterson is working with the policy, and Pr. Becky suggested an addendum to ours. Susi will look into any discrepancies.

### **Christian Education**

- Lindsey Spies provided the following report:  
Minister of Faith Formation & Pastoral Care  
July 2022 Council Report

Hello Council,

I was hoping to have a report full of energy and newly found engagement. However, I am at a loss. When the Faith Formation Board (FFB) held our meeting on June 21st we talked about what style of Sunday School to launch this fall. After much discussion, the board decided on the Spark House Rotation Model. It was understood at this meeting that this model is volunteer-heavy.

Since then, I have provided the board with as much support as I can. I ordered all curriculum materials, pulled together a Potential SS Volunteer list, and split the list up between the five of

us, including Becca. I also wrote up Talking Points. I communicated to the board by email with updates and offered up some direction for tackling the list. However, I did not receive a response from the board from the 3 emails I sent.

During our Zoom meeting on July 19th, I told the board that I didn't know how to read the no response and if they could give me a little insight. They had no answer. I ended up asking the same question 3 different times throughout the meeting. Still no answer.

As we start into August, we don't have the 8 volunteers needed (3 teachers, 3 shepherds, & 2 breakfast setup and cleanup helpers) each week. This is a very robust program and needs volunteers to make it happen. I am scared that we are putting together a program for our children that we are not able to show up for. The message I never want children to feel is that the adults in their lives didn't show up for them.

I see the writing on the wall, there is no energy and available time to commit to such a robust program. Traditional style SS is a thing of the past because of these two issues. Council, what would you like to do with our current fall programming?

Good things that are happening; confirmation letters went out and registration is open. With both 7th & 8th graders we should have 13-15 students. I have been working on securing 3 adult leaders. Mary Newcomb is in! Confirmation will meet on 1st & 3rd Sundays from 4-6 pm. They will be acquiring mentors to meet with once a month. Affirmation will be held on Pentecost 2023.

Jeff Newcomb and Kim Fuller have agreed to be adult leaders for High School. There are about 15 potential students, and they will meet on the 1st & 3rd Sundays from 6-8 pm. My hope is they will also plan a mission trip for the summer of 2023.

Visiting Friends (Caregiver ministry) is going really well and visiting many of our homebound members. They keep the office up to date with hospitalization, surgeries, and other important things. This group deserves a huge round of applause! I have been thankful to be able to make many pastoral calls this past month and work with this amazing group of humans.

Summer worship has been small but mighty. The kids have been wanting to sit with the adults and I marvel at how they see the world. These kids have put a lot into the conversation and I am proud of the adults for giving the kids space to converse. I love to hear how these kids see mission and the kids also walk away with big smiles when they see their ideas go up on the wall.

In the end, I really don't know what is going to happen with SS and where we are going with it. The board has a lot of work to do and an ad hoc committee needs to be formed to pull off Kick-Off Sunday.

With regard,

Lindsey Spies  
Minister of Faith Formation & Pastoral Care

There was a great deal of discussion about the future of the Sunday School program as well as Kick-Off Sunday. So far there are no volunteers from the boards to help with the preparation for Kick-Off Sunday. Diann Moore agreed to help as a member from Council along with Sara Wynn from Outreach and Mission. Marcella Armstrong still has to contact a couple of members from Spiritual Engagement.

**Leadership Circle:**

- Joshua Dyer reported on the following:
  - They are supporting the Design Team as they plan for congregational meetings in August.
  - Joshua agreed to bring up several of the issues discussed earlier in the meeting to the Leadership Circle.

**Old Business****Leadership Covenant**

- There was some discussion about whether or not there is merit in moving forward with the Leadership Covenant. Susi Llewellyn told Council she feels that having it in place as a guideline for boards and committees would be helpful and that giving it to Nominating Committee could help them when they are explaining board and committee positions.
- Diann Moore moved that the Leadership Covenant be given to Nominating Committee to be used when talking to people about serving on boards or committees and also given to the boards to share with their members as a guideline for membership. No signature will be required. Joshua Dyer seconded. Motion passed.

**Safe Conduct Policy** – Lindsey Spies told Council she is sending out email links for the training sessions.

**New Business**

- Marcella Armstrong asked permission on behalf of Spiritual Engagement to hold a fundraiser to replace old Christmas decorations. Diann Moore moved that Spiritual Engagement be allowed to hold a fundraiser to replace old Christmas decorations. Marcella Armstrong seconded. After discussion about how other boards have raised money for projects, Diann Moore withdrew her motion. Marcella withdrew her second.

**Adjournment:** All members moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:25PM. All members gleefully seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Carlson  
Clerk