

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 27, 2022**

In Attendance: Pr. Becky David (Interim Sr. Pastor), Diann Moore (At Large), Jeff Nelson (for Steve Schippers, Building and Finance), Marcella Armstrong (Spiritual Engagement), Barb Guss (At Large), Heather Carlson (Clerk), and Lindsey Spies (Minister of Faith Formation)

Absent: Abby Stickell (Christian Education), Susi Llewellyn (Red Wagon), and Sara Wynn (Outreach and Mission)

Guest: Carol Freeman

The meeting was called to order at 6:05PM following a prayer given by Lindsey Spies.

Approval of

Minutes: Marcella Armstrong moved to approve the minutes from the June meeting. Barb Guss seconded. Motion carried.

Quick

Reports:

Pastor's Report

- Pr. Becky submitted the following report:

Pastor's Report

June 2022

May and June have been busy with the congregation's energy finally shifting to realistically address its financial and ministry needs. The Design Team has met twice, with a third session scheduled for this week. In discussion with Scott, it is our hope that the Team will have some decisions to place in front of the congregation in July.

The staff welcomed Carol Freeman to our monthly meetings. It is great to have her there as a conduit of information between the staff and leadership. The staff has found her to be a great support. In addition [Jeff Newcomb](#) has been in steady communication with Amber about how we can better communicate with our members. And you see every month Josh's commitment to keeping this place functioning!

A few items of note...

- I continue to meet in person with Amber and Lindsey on a weekly basis, and the other staff regularly.
- In May I performed a memorial service for Pat Shannon
- I met in person with the choir to discuss their discomfort in bringing in an outside song leader.
- I had been meeting with two potential members, both of whom have decided not to join FCC at this time. Their decisions, while separate from each other, are connected to their feeling that FCC is not really a safe place for LGBTQ people (both people are members of the LGBTQ community). I am happy to address this more if that would be helpful.
- I have been meeting with Personnel to revise the Music Coordinator job description and finalize interview questions and processes. Two members of Personnel have had difficulty receiving their emails which has slowed us down a bit. We had one candidate and are waiting to see if that person is still available and interested.
- The Caregiver group has renamed itself (back to) Visiting Friends. Two more members have stepped forward as interested in being trained. I am very happy with how this is going and the connections they are making with our members.
- FCC collaborated with Hope UCC and Edwards Congregational UCC as sponsors of Pride. No one from our congregation, with the exception of paid staff, participated in the pride parade or helped at the booth during the pride party.
- In follow up to last month's council meeting, I have met with Sara Wynn to discuss the ONA committee and how it can easily be incorporated into Outreach and Mission.

- Summer worship will take place in the fellowship hall. The goal here is to make our smaller numbers feel more comfortable, increase the opportunity for fellowship, and share time together to discuss in bible study format, some of the questions we need to consider for the profile.

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)

This leaves my PTO at

Personal Days (5)

- Sunday April 24, 2022

Gratefully submitted,
Pastor Becky

- **Spiritual Engagement:**

- o Marcella Armstrong submitted the following report:

SE met on June 21st. Topics discussed:

1) Summer worship services for July, August and first Sunday in September will be held in Fellowship Hall and communion will be served every week

2) Fellowship hour after services on first Sunday of each month will be held in Son Cafe and Fellowship Hall going forward.

3) Becca Peterson has been researching decorations for Advent season such as new garlands, smaller Christmas tree for the sanctuary.. No decisions have been made yet.

Cella Armstrong

Diann Moore let Marcella know she has names of places that sell large Christmas decorations.

Marcella also informed Council that Mike Bealer will resign as the bus driver scheduler at the end of the year. They will be looking for a replacement.

Building and Finance:

Jeff Nelson reported that the boiler replacement project is on schedule and will be completed by the end of the summer. Additionally, he told Council that all boards are under budget so far this year except Building and Finance, which is due to additional costs incurred on the boiler project.

Outreach and Mission – Sara Wynn provided the following:

O&M did not meet this month, but we continue to stay active:

1) As of the last board meeting, ONA is under O&M. I met with Pastor Becky on June 9th to discuss. The most immediate need was volunteers for the Pride Parade and Pride Party booth on June 18th. I reached out to numerous church members and was unable to secure any volunteers. Most people were out of town/unavailable due to sports or vacation. Going forward we will look at UCC ideas and strategies to incorporate in service and mission focusing on June 2023.

2) O&M is sponsoring the World Relief pantry in July. Please consider volunteering or making a donation to our neighbors.

- July 8th, 9am & July 11th, 9am - World Relief Food Pantry, Moline

Outreach and Mission are asking for donations for the World Relief Pantry in July. Donate online: fccmoline.org/summer-of-service-2022

- A donation of \$10 will provide salt for
- A donation of \$20 will provide spices
- A donation of \$30 will provide dried beans
- A donation of \$40 will provide canned tuna
- A donation of \$50 will provide Jasmine rice
- A donation of \$100 will provide chicken

3) Red Wagon Day is Sunday, August 21st. O&M will host a school supply drive for Red Wagon in July/August, presenting the supplies on 8/21. Aubrey Meers is reaching out to Amanda to create a school supply list based on their needs.

I want to thank Susi Llewellyn for doing double duty again and representing not only Red Wagon, but O&M at the June council meeting as I am currently in Branson, MO for the week cheering on Charlotte and her team at softball nationals.

Sara Wynn

Red Wagon – No report

Christian Education – Lindsey Spies provided the following report:

An overview of the Faith Formation/CE Board Report for June 2022:

Discussed options for Sunday School for the year. We are going to go traditional and try to get the kids back to what they are used to and offer the children breakfast again.

We still need to work on finalizing teachers/shepherds but Becca has been able to assist us with getting some volunteers so we are off to a good start.

Also discussed holding a "Blessing of the Backpacks" event at the beginning of the school year. And started discussions on Kick-Off Sunday.

We would like to get a representative from each board to help form an ad-hoc committee to put together a nice event that will hopefully draw the families back to in-person.

Leadership Circle – Pr. Becky outlined the following:

- They continue work with the Design Team, and Scott Waletzko brings ideas and suggestions to the Design Team.

- Design Team meets Thursday, June 29 to discuss the next steps and when to present that information to the congregation.
- Jeff Nelson moved to authorize Design Team to call a congregational meeting in the next 2 months to discuss paths forward. Marcella Armstrong seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business

Leadership Covenant – After some discussion about moving forward with the Leadership Covenant, Council agreed to table further discussion in order to give all members of Council the opportunity to read the revised document. It is as follows:

First Congregational United Church of Christ Leadership Covenant

As an elected member of the FCC Council, Board, or standing committee, I understand that serving as a leader is a privilege and not a right and that leaders are held to a higher behavioral standard than the congregation at large. As a leader I agree to hold myself accountable to my fellow leaders and to the congregation I serve through the following actions.

- I will pray for FCC, its leaders, pastor, and future pastor
- I will support the church financially
- I will act as a servant leader – making decisions to better the church as a whole, not to meet my own needs or serve my own agenda
- Through my words and actions I will support publicly the final decisions of the Council, Boards, and Committees
- I will not participate in conversations or actions that undermine the work of other leaders, boards, committees, or council.
- I will take my responsibility seriously by:
 - Being open to how God is working at FCC
 - Being prepared for my board/council/committee meeting
 - Making attendance at those meetings a priority

I understand that my failure to uphold this covenant may result in a Council decision to release me from my leadership position.

Signature

Date

Safe Conduct Policy – Lindsey Spies told Council there were numerous issues with training that have to be worked out. Training will have to be done again.

Kitchen

- Jeff Nelson explained that negotiations with Gary Bull are being finalized and he started working today.
- They are still working on the agreement with CJ. His license is different and they are working with the original people who put it together. They will present what they have at the next meeting.
- The kitchen passed the health inspection.

- There was also discussion about renting spaces in the parking lot to food trucks. This is an idea that came from a Design Team meeting and remains an open item.

Building Use Policy

- Jeff Nelson reported that there have been some changes in the language in the policy. Pr. Becky asked that B&F show the document to the office staff before it is finalized. They will do so and bring the finalized policy to Council next month.

Theme for the year

- This item has been given to the Design Team

New Business

- Pr. Becky informed Council that she needs to devote more time to her coaching and consulting business and is asking for an additional week of PTO until the end of the year. Marcella Armstrong moved that Pr. Becky be given another week of PTO through December. Barb Guss seconded. After some discussion the motion was called to a vote. Four members voted in favor and one against. Motion carried.

Adjournment: Jeff Nelson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:22PM. Barb Guss seconded. Motion carried.