

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH MOLINE
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

In Attendance: Joshua Dyer (Council Chair), Diann Moore (At Large), Marcella Armstrong (Spiritual Engagement), Abby Stickell (Christian Education), Sara Wynn (Outreach and Mission), Susi Llewellyn (Red Wagon), Heather Carlson (Clerk)

Absent: Steve Schippers (Building and Finance), Rev. Becky David (Senior Interim Pastor), Barb Guss (At Large)

The meeting was called to order at 6:16 PM following a prayer given by Susi Llewellyn.

Approval of

August Minutes: Susi Llewellyn moved to approve the minutes from the August meeting. Abby Stickell seconded. Motion passed.

Board Reports:

Building and Finance: Steve Schippers submitted the following report:

Endowment Fund: Balance of \$2.9 million at the end of August. Withdrawals of \$37,000 (quarterly operating budget) and \$150,000 (boiler project) were made during the month of Sept.

Boiler Project: 4 progress payments have been made in 2022 and JL Brady's work continues to be on schedule.

Completed activities:

Reviewed the CINTAS service contract and made initial changes to service to reduce costs by approximately \$1000/ year (reduced the number of floor mats). More detailed analysis is being conducted on the cleaners and remainder of CINTAS services.

Reviewed Millenium Waste garbage services and reduced dumpster size to save \$2400/ year

Contracted with an electrician to move one outlet in the pastor's office and replace one outlet in Red Wagon main room. Both changes required to due new locations of heat exchanges for the boiler project, Electrician also replaced a defective GFCI outlet in the kitchen.

Urgent work to be started in October:

Continue to suspect multiple roof leaks are due to flashing leaks. Jeff and I need to do a first pass roof inspection of the tower and from the tower before the roofing company contract visits on 15 Oct,

West Sanctuary doors have peeling varnish and the main large Mississippi River side door no longer closes cleanly to enable top sliding lock. Handyman previously planned to work on both issues but fell while on another job and is unavailable. BF will have to arrange another method to accomplish both fixes.

Steve Schippers

Outreach and Mission: Sara Wynn submitted the following report:

Outreach & Mission met on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 6:00 PM in the large dining room Trunk or Treat-contacted CE to offer support if this event is a go
CareLINK-

We donated \$500 in April from OM budget (another \$500 from the Pastoral Discretionary fund)

We will donate \$500 annually from the OM budget (pay in February)

Motion made by Christine Nelson and seconded by Sara Wynn

Sara will turn in the pledge form

Essential Baskets-brainstorming ideas to reinvent essential baskets

Idea #1-Assigning church groups an organization-groups would be responsible for bringing in the essential items. OM would provide the baskets. Groups would bring items and assemble them on a Sunday afternoon

10 organizations have been contacted and asked to prioritize their items so we can purchase the most in demand items

Giving Tree-

Same organizations as previous years

Scale back to 10 people/organization

Will do ½ names electronically and ½ on the tree

Spiritual Engagement: Marcella Armstrong submitted the following:

SE Board did not meet in September due to busy schedules and traveling by several board members.
SE Activities:

Kick-off Sunday was worked on by Becca Peterson and Pam Wendt.

October 2 there will be a reception after services for confirmation of Lucas Nelson and baptism/joining the church of Dan Hill. Wes Llewellyn has taken charge of organizing and preparing food for that event.

Becca Peterson has gathered information on purchasing new Christmas garlands, smaller Christmas tree and possibly some wreaths. She wrote the article to market the fundraising event being done by SE for purchase of those items. I asked Amber Moore to print up special donation envelopes to put in the pews for this fundraiser.

SE will do the set-up for All Saints Sunday in November.

Christian Education: Abby Stickell submitted the following report:

Minutes from CE meetings in September:

CE has been working hard on getting everything prepared for Sunday School to start.

Becca Peterson has graciously agreed to help organize the teachers/shepherds and Sunday school lessons. A lot of teachers/shepherds have completed the safe church but we are still missing a few. Becca was going to follow up with them.

We had 11 kids at the first week of Sunday school. We had to make accommodations due to the CE wing still being under construction. With some sports still going on for the youth, we are expecting the numbers to grow soon.

We have 13 confirmands this year. It is a 2 year course so some of them are in their 2nd year, but we are really encouraged with the total number. Also have a new teen that has been to many youth groups and is going to go through confirmation with us! We have been seeing her and her mother in church lately!

Amanda Beck is going to help organize youth group and get it going!

We are still needing a leader for confirmation. Right now Abby is attempting to lead and organize.

Currently looking at October 29 for Trunk or Treat. Amanda will confirm hopefully by the end of the week and then we will ask Amber to post in the Bridge so we can get some trunks lined up!

Proposed Confirmation Class Dedication for October 16. Abby will lead it if we can just get a few minutes of worship time to present study bibles to the confirmands.

Proposed 3rd grade Bible presentation for November 13.

Concerns:

Need a leader for confirmation.

Looking for volunteers that would like to help run pie baking for the youth as that has historically been a big fundraiser and this year, we do not have a volunteer.

Childrens time in service. CE has been asked to find volunteers that will run Childrens time beginning the second week of October. We are already using majority of parents to volunteer as teachers/shepherds, youth group, confirmation, mentors, etc. I am not sure that we will be able to recruit any one for this and I do not think CE will necessarily have the time to work on this. Any one have thoughts on this?

Pastor's Report: Pr. Becky David submitted the following report:

Pastor's Report
September 2022

Following the August 28 vote on the future direction of FCC, I submitted by resignation effective October 31, 2022. My last day with you will be on Sunday October 30th.

As I prepare to leave you there is a lot of work to be done but I will do my best to leave you in a good position to move forward. To that end I have planned worship through the 4th Sunday of Advent so whoever covers the pulpit for you will not have to prepare anything except the sermon. I have also left with Amber as complete a list of potential pulpit supply folks as I can create. I will forward to Amber or print out any emails and docs that I feel might be helpful before I finally log out of my church email address.

Things I've been up to since last council meeting:

- I continue to meet regularly with Leadership Circle and with staff - both individually and collectively.
- I celebrated a memorial service for Faye White On Sept 3rd and for Helen Simmons on September 7th.
- Staff celebrated Lindsey's last day
- I met with Visiting Friends to begin planning their ministry without any professional leadership
- I celebrated Lindsey and Bek's wedding on September 10th.
- I met with a couple about their wedding on November 5th.
- I met with Lucas Nelson and Dan Hill in preparation for their confirmation and baptism, respectively, on Oct 2nd.
- I met with the Blackhawk Association Committee on Ministry on the 20th.
- I will, with Council approval, perform the wedding ceremony scheduled for November 5th.

Issues to be addressed

1. Council will need to create a small group to make sure you have pulpit supply.
2. Council will need to make some decisions about Christmas. Will you be able to find pulpit supply for the holiday?
 - a. If not, I suggest you make arrangements to celebrate with a neighboring congregation.
 - b. If yes, it is asking a lot of pulpit supply to do two services. You may need to consolidate into one service this year.
3. Council needs to put together the profile/search committee asap.
4. Council needs to make a decision about the Faith Formation/Pastoral Care position going forward.
5. Council needs to decide what to do about potential weddings
6. Council needs to take responsibility for putting into action the recommendations of the conference about how to proceed. After November 1st.

Upcoming Dates:

- Oct 2nd: Dan Hill baptism and confirmation; Lucas Nelson confirmation. Lunch to follow.
- Oct 9th: congregational conversation about projects going forward
- Oct 9-11: Pr Becky at Tri-Conference annual meeting

- Oct 13- 17: Pr Becky off
- Oct 30: my last day

Red Wagon – Susi Llewellyn submitted the following report:

Red Wagon’s DCFS licensing representative recently completed her annual visit. Red Wagon passed with no problems. The Representative really likes Red Wagon and the program that we have here.

The following requests were made by Amanda Peterson, Red Wagon director:

1. I request, again, that the riding mower not be used inside of Red Wagon's playground area. It is really too big for our grassy areas, and it is damaging the landscape rings that surround the trees.

2. Once the new furnace is completely installed, am I correct in thinking that the waste water will drain out of the unit via the same pipes that the older one did? If so, Red Wagon needs it to be rerouted. The way it drains now causes it to run into our concrete playground area. Depending on the amount, there can be standing water. Children, as you may expect, are drawn to "puddles" and we spend time getting after them for staying away from this water. We prefer not getting after students for things that they shouldn't have to deal with.

The Red Wagon licensing rep was able to provide some good information for Council concerning using the lower educational wing of FCC for a day or night care. That information is below.

Old Business:

Josh reported that he has gotten comments from members who were unable to attend the congregational vote meeting August 28. The comments weren’t negative; the members didn’t get the results of the vote and wanted to know what’s going on. There was discussion about having a copy of the three options the Design Team presented to the congregation and a statement about which option was chosen. Heather Carlson’s husband Cliff was a member of the Design Team so she will get a copy of the options and the results for the church records.

New Business:

- **Pulpit Supply-Immediate future**

- Pr. Becky has prepared all services up to December 18. Visiting pastors will only have to write their sermons, however, it is up to us to find pastors. Josh told us that Kimberly Dyer spoke with Michael Dyer who then spoke with Dana Martin and Carol Holst-Martin. They are interested in sharing the responsibilities on a rotating basis. Harold Duckett knows an individual who may also be interested in helping. It was suggested that perhaps we could invite him to preach so that we can hear him. There was also discussion about Wes Llewellyn contacting pastors as well. Susi will talk to him about it.

- **Interim Pastor/Pulpit Supply – further future-weddings/funerals**

- Abby Stickell suggested we should also be looking for an interim pastor because the search for a seated senior pastor could take a long time. There was discussion regarding who should be structuring the position: Personnel or Council. Further discussion focused on whether or not the position should be full time or part time.
 - Diann Moore made a motion to set up a full-time interim pastoral search committee consisting of a minimum of one member of the Personnel Committee and two members of the congregation. Marcella Armstrong seconded. The discussion phase of the motion included comments about asking the Association for help with this search. The motion was called to a vote and passed.
 - There is one wedding scheduled in November that Pr. Becky is willing to officiate. Beyond that there are weddings scheduled for January 14 and April 15. Diann Moore suggested that perhaps Wes Llewellyn could include those events in his conversations with potential pulpit supply pastors. A funeral would be for a member of the congregation, therefore we could work with our pulpit supply.

- **Exit Interview**

- Pr. Becky's exit interview is scheduled for October 20 at 7pm. Josh explained that the interview is an Association requirement in which Pr. Becky debriefs the panel on her time with FCC. Bob Tallitsch and Rev. Santina Pore will be in attendance as members of the Association. Diann Moore agreed to represent Council, Jeff Newcomb will represent the Leadership Circle, and Amanda Beck or Susi Llewellyn will represent personnel.
- **Profile and Pastor Call Committee**
 - Before beginning the process of nominating potential members of this committee, Josh explained to Council that this is one committee not two separate committees. There was not much response to the general announcement asking for volunteers for the committee, so Leadership Circle met and created a list of possibilities. Council members also provided names of candidates. We then voted on the names on the list and created a vote ranking. Josh will contact those people on the list. The committee will consist of eight members. Suggested guidelines for the call to nominees included a list of tasks, an explanation of the time commitment, and suggestions on how to approach the nominees.
- **October 9**
 - We will have another congregational conversation following worship service Sunday, October 9. This is not a formal meeting but rather a way to gather ideas members may have following the vote taken on August 28. There will be papers taped to the wall on which members may write down their ideas for moving forward. Any ideas will be accepted and will need one, and hopefully two, leaders. Members may sign up to be a leader or a volunteer. If an idea has only leaders but no volunteers or only volunteers but no leaders it will not move forward. Another issue will be funding for some of the proposals. A member can propose a project/idea either to a board or Council for potential funding.
- **Pastoral Care/CE/Faith Formation**
 - There was lengthy discussion regarding what we need to do to fill Lindsey Spies' position. The most urgent needs are Sunday School and Confirmation. Sara Wynn knows a couple who might be willing to help out with Youth Group or at least know someone else who could step in. Additionally, there was conversation about bringing back the parish nurse position. Josh asked Susi Llewellyn to come back to Council with a plan for a parish nurse.
- **Volunteers-Shavaun Kidd**
 - Shavaun Kidd contacted Josh about being a volunteer coordinator and is happy to call people. She told him she considers herself to be a member of the church because she has family members who were members here. He brought this to our attention because she is willing to help in some compacity.
- **Cintas**
 - There has been a change in our contract with Cintas that reduced the number of floor mats in entryways. Building and Finance did not have a representative at the meeting, so there was no one who could answer questions about the issue. However, this led to questions about the accessibility of board minutes in the Google classrooms.
- **Remote door locks**
 - There is an app that locks and unlocks the church doors if someone needs to be in the building after hours. With Pr. Becky leaving at the end of October we would only have one person with the app. Josh told Council that all members of Council should have the app so there is always someone available if needed.
- **Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services**
 - There was discussion about pulpit supply for these services being especially difficult since Christmas falls on a Sunday. Abby informed Council that CE is planning on having the Christmas Eve service, and after discussion it was agreed that we do not need an ordained pastor for the service.
 - Diann Moore moved that we cancel the Christmas Day Service. Marcella Armstrong seconded. During the discussion phase of the motion, it was agreed that there should

be a service and that we could partner with Hope Congregational for that. The motion was called to a vote. Motion failed.

- Diann Moore moved that we partner with Hope Congregational Church for a Christmas Day Service. Abby Stickell seconded. Motion passed.

- **Other business**

- In answer to a question about Red Wagon's report, Susi Llewellyn informed Council that they will not be pursuing evening child care because there are too many requirements that we cannot meet.
- Diann Moore gave Council a summary of the meeting with representatives of the City of Moline and 4th Ward residents. The representatives outlined plans they have for the vacant parcels of land around the new I-74 bridge. Those plans include a skateboard park, a pump track, a pocket park, and a round-about on 7th Avenue.
- Abby Stickell addressed the need Christian Education has for a credit card. She is currently using her own credit card for purchases for CE and the reimbursement process is cumbersome.
- This raised general concerns about payments and reimbursements and the need for an audit if problems persist. This should be discussed at our next meeting.

- **Adjournment**

- Susi Llewellyn moved to adjourn at 9:03PM. Abby Stickell seconded. No discussion was necessary, and the motion passed with great relief.

Next Meeting - October 25.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Carlson
Church Clerk