

General Board Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2021 – in person and via ZOOM

ATTENDING

Pamela Jones, Carol Madere, Dak McInnis, Rev. David Chisham, Chris Culp, Ray Acardo, Ann Baskin, Bill Trotter, Judy Lester, Mike Wilson, Jo Craddock (Admin. Ass't.)

ABSENT

Shelly Cody, Ann Landry

OPENING

Pam Jones called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. and Rev. Chisham offered an opening prayer.

Pam Jones then offered a change in the agenda distributed, and gave the floor to Rev. Chisham who, pointing out his letter of resignation in the board packets, announced same and his acceptance of a call as Senior Minister at First Christian Church in Midland, Texas. His last Sunday, and last day of work at FCCBRLA will be August 8, 2021.

Ms. Jones then gave the board a walk-through of the process the church will be entering. This Sunday, Rev. Chisham will make verbal announcement of his transfer of call, and Ms. Jones will also speak to the congregation.

After Rev. Chisham's departure, we should expect about eight weeks of pulpit supply – from the community, congregation, etc., during which an Interim Minister will be hired by the Board.

The Regional Office will assist in interim hiring with suggested candidates. The Board is leaning toward a six-month contract with options to renew, for any interim hired.

With an interim in place, the search-and-call process will begin, with Carol Madere as chair of the Search Committee. A congregational profile will be developed to introduce ourselves to potential candidates. Pam and Carol are putting together names to invite to the search committee, as designated by the bylaws.

Carol Madere offered thoughts on recent readings about congregational growth and development (including she felt she'd previously left too much on the minister's plate), and asked that the Board – and the congregation be invited to – pray for three things: 1) God's help in finding an interim minister; 2) God's help in finding the right person for the next senior minister position; and, 3) that FCCBRLA remain strong as a church community while going through this transition.

Members of the Board offered glimpses into considerations during past searches, and items for the congregation, and particularly interim and settled minister search committees to consider:

- We don't believe that "healing" per se is necessary at this departure, but grief – over the events of the past 18 months, the congregational losses through death or moving, as well as Rev. Chisham's departure – will need to be acknowledged
- It's an opportunity for a professional look at our worship, facilities, and programs with "fresh eyes" and we should be prepared to hear about our

strengths, and our weaknesses

- Rev. Chisham has purposefully nurtured a welcoming, loving environment with proper focus on the worship of God, which is vital to many members

Pam then brought the discussion to the poor response received to volunteer requests for restarting Coffee Fellowship, and that she and Carol had discussed initiating this with a monthly brunch or luncheon, starting with a celebration of Rev. Chisham's ministry on Sunday, August 8. Vicki Krupala will be heading that event. A back-to-school event will be considered for September; Consecration Day in October; and, Thanksgiving event in November.

PROPERTY REPORT Discussion turning to the kitchen, the attached Property Report was referred to as the Board was brought up to speed on the campus gas leak, the location, scope of work, and potential costs of repair still being unknown.

PERSONNEL After discussion with Finance Committee, and our furloughed nursery workers, procedures to re-open the nursery and bring Ajha Dortsch and Reagan Kelly (who had been interviewed, but not officially hired before sudden shut-down in March 2020) back as nursery workers will be conducted. Boundaries training will be completed before re-opening, and any necessary CPR training by the end of July. Additional guidance regarding COVID was mentioned, and Rev. Chisham advised that we have been following the recommendations of the Governor's office with input from the congregation addressing any specific concerns.

Rev. Chisham pointed out that campus personnel will be without a named supervisor after August 8, 2021, and he suggested that Carol Madere, as chair of the Personnel Committee, act in supervisory capacity.

PROPERTY LEASE Rev. Chisham advised that we had been contacted by the purchasers of the Runnells Preschool campus on Jefferson Highway, where a K-8 school is being established. However, the upper level renovations will not be complete for start of school on August 11, and they are interested in renting the Baker Building for two to three weeks at our current rental rates. This was endorsed by the Board.

TREASURER Dak McInnis advised the Finance Committee will not meet until later in the month, but financials are generally looking pretty good.

COMMITTEE RPTS. No committee reports were presented.

ADJOURNMENT With no further business before the Board, following a brief devotional offered by Elder Chris Culp, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Lester, Secretary
by Jo Craddock, Admin. Ass't.