

# General Board Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2020 via ZOOM

- ATTENDING** Pamela Jones, Beverly Tipton, Carol Madere, Dak McInnis, Rev. David Chisham, Debbie Poché, Mary Thompson, Ray Acardo, Shelly Cody, Tony Fatta, Ann Landry, Jo Craddock (Admin. Ass't.)
- ABSENT** Charlene Landry (attempted, but unable to get software to connect)
- OPENING** Pam Jones called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m., and brought the March and April minutes to the Board's attention for review and approval. Upon motion by Carol Madere, seconded by Ann Landry, both the March 17, and April 7, 2020, minutes were approved.
- TREASURER** Dak McInnis was called to give the treasurer's report. He advised (1) the church applied for and received a Payroll Protection Program loan under the CARES Act in the amount of approximately \$33,069, of which most is expected to be forgiven under the terms of the Act; (2) the church has a BCE loan (DCEF) with a balance due of \$28,738, less the most recent payment; (3) the investment account through CCF (BCF) is down \$22.2K in the most recent report; (4) the church's expenses have been under budget for the first quarter; (5) the church's revenue is also under budget, but we are currently running \$2,312 in revenue over expenses.
- The ability to encourage and collect giving (pledged and/or extra) while people are away from the church building needs to be addressed. A donation button for Facebook (at no charge to the church) has been applied for, and the application is moving along, with additional and corrected information sent in this week.
- PROPERTY** The property report had been distributed to the Board for review, and the only item missing the list was the issue discovered this date with the sanctuary air conditioners. Neals Air Conditioning has been contacted, and discovered a leak in the east compressor. Commendations were offered to Charles Riddle for the initiative to tackle some big jobs while the campus has been empty.
- OLD BUSINESS** Pam Jones and Carol Madere still have appointments to make to some committees (Pam: SC/mem; and, Carol: Nom/Personnel).
- Rev. Chisham distributed a resolution to the Board based on the March meeting request regarding Dr. Kelly & Gladys Runnels. Mary Thompson made motion, and Tony Fatta seconded, that the proposed resolution be approved, and presented to the Runnels at an in-person Sunday worship service.
- NEW BUSINESS** Rev. Chisham reviewed the summarization of the congregational survey regarding return to church and addressing health mandates and suggestions.
- The consensus of the Board was that return to public worship in the church will begin with one service each Sunday (10:00 a.m.), beginning Sunday, June 7, 2020. Mary Thompson indicated her Sunday school class was anxious to return, and they will decide whether to meet before or after the 10 o'clock services, and likely will meet in the church where distancing recommendations can be followed.

Some alterations to the previous liturgy are being made, so that distancing and communion methods can meet protocol, and so that live worship can be blended with online worship, which also needs to continue.

Rev. Chisham advised the following programs cannot return under current recommendations: nursery, children/youth Sunday school, coffee fellowship. Lucy Cody wants to work on means to continue children's Worship & Wonder; and, Rev. Chisham will be reaching out to older children/youth for suggestions and means to keep in touch with those age groups.

The Board then considered the outside groups who have previously used space at FCC. The Church Insurance Board will be asked about policies or recommendations in effect for outside groups returning; the current agreements with these groups will be reviewed; and, groups will be advised that it is their responsibility to comply with the then-current state and health department regulations, mandates, and/or requirements.

MINISTERS RPT

The ability to connect with seniors who have any digital experience has been very encouraging during this time. We have also counted attendance by members who haven't been able to attend prior to the COVID-19 shutdown, or those who have moved elsewhere but stay in touch with FCCBRLA. Responses to the congregational survey laid bare the importance of a strong digital presence, now and to come.

Rev. Chisham advised that some old (and therefore burdensome in time and effort), as well as some personal, equipment has been used to develop the programs we've run during the crisis. He presented both immediate and full-scale menus of investments he suggests for a stable and sustainable online presence, comprising computer upgrades, streaming hardware, camera purchases, and streaming station created in the sanctuary.

Mary Thompson made motion, seconded by Ann Landry, that the full-scale package be laid out, itemized, and presented to the Finance Committee for consideration as to funding sources, which was approved.

Whereupon, at 7:50 p.m. Rev. David Chisham offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Poché, Secretary  
by Jo Craddock, Admin. Ass't.