

**United Church of Chapel Hill
Church Council Meeting, April 28, 2020
Meeting Minutes**

X	Gaylen Brubaker, Moderator	X	Kirstin Frescoln, BJOS
X	Melanie Joiner, Assistant Moderator		
X	Derek Harrison, Treasurer	X	Andrea Vizoso, MES
X	Karen Demby, Clerk		
		X	Ron Johnson, Trustees
X	Cameron Barr, Senior Pastor		
		X	Millie Brobston, Youth & Young Adults
	Jeff Hall, Adult Education		
		X	Angel Collie, At Large
X	Christine Harding, Children's	X	Helen Hoenig, At Large
		X	David Tanner, At Large
X	Peter Schay, Deacons	X	Ingrid Schmidt, At Large
X	Lee Sorensen, Fellowship		Guests:
		X	David Mateo, Associate Pastor
		X	Ian McPherson, Associate Pastor

Call to Order

Gaylen Brubaker, Moderator

Invocation

Rev. Cameron Barr

Group Sharing

Gaylen Brubaker asked each member to share what High School they attended, the city it is in and for what the city is known. Responses: large cities and small were named which stretched from New York to Tucson to New Orleans. Some cities were known as the birthplace or home of industry magnates or inventors e.g., inventors of the Ferris Wheel and the game of Volleyball. In addition, the cities of famous universities were mentioned. There was the inevitable BBQ foodie debate and much more.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Peter Schay motioned to approve the minutes from the March 24th Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Ingrid Schmidt and approved by voice vote.

Motion: Peter Schay motioned to approve the minutes from the April 6th Special Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Melanie Joiner and approved by voice vote.

2020 Budget and Financial Update

Paycheck Protection Program Loan Status. Derek Harrison shared that the application for the Paycheck Protection Program was submitted in the first round, however, funds were depleted before it was considered. The application is now in the queue for the 2nd round and we are waiting for a review and a response.

Year to date financials. Derek Harrison reported that January-March showed a slowdown vs the budgeted amount in terms of pledge and other income, however we ended the month of March in the positive. The church is in good shape financially but will need to continue to watch what happens as we

move to months where we typically see a deficit. Personnel costs will continue to need review from month to month.

Facemask Project. Ron Johnson described the actions of the Trustees in regard to this project. Two motions were approved: 1) United Church would act as the non-profit partner to the enterprise that is headed by Eric Westman, former United Church member. The church would act as a holding organization for these funds. 2) United Church would form a steering committee to manage the administration of the project.

Jody Forehand reached out to find steering committee members and the committee is currently looking for grants to fund the project. For more information about this project, visit: coveringthetriangle.com or seek out Jody Forehand to know more about the activities and results.

Update on COVID-19 Actions

In a discussion about COVID-19, a quote from a colleague of Pastor Cameron was that the virus was a “litmus test on how congregations adapt to this public health crisis. Some congregations would be energized while others would be waiting for normalcy to return.” Our congregation seems to have been energized based on several major outreach activities:

Food distribution to Chapel Hill School children who might otherwise not have lunch while they are out of school. United Church has raised more than \$18,000 and the total raised by the 11 local congregations involved has exceeded \$57,000. To gauge the magnitude of this offering, the school system estimated potential costs of \$68,000 that were not guaranteed to be reimbursed by the state. In addition to the funds, United Church has dispatched more than 40 volunteers and the program has served more than 2200 students for more than six weeks. Pastor Barr surmises that the church community’s early participation in what is essentially a spiritual practice has shifted the disposition of our congregation to the positive and has shaped who we are as a community. Also, the *Facemask Project* and its support (described above) has had a positive impact and potential for more. Finally, the *Spreading Justice Project* (described below) was initiated to provide funds for those who are hardest hit by the economic effects of the COVID virus.

Spring Nomination Process

Gaylen Brubaker solicited updates from Board Chairs about progress and it seem that people are making progress with recruitment for the class of 2023. The plan is for the process to be completed in time to circulate the slate to the congregation three weeks prior to the congregational meeting. (May 26, 2020)

Spreading Justice Proposal

Ingrid Schmidt shared a final version of the Spreading Justice Proposal (attached) as well as some plans for implementation. The Underground church led by Carl Kenney has been proposed as the outside organization which will receive funds, however, there is a process used by BJOS for documenting requests for funds. Technically, this isn't a request for funds by the organization, so there will be some discussion about adjusting the process to fit this particular scenario. To facilitate collection of funds and their fair disbursement, the following motion was provided by Ingrid:

MOTION to approve the Spreading Justice Proposal, with an 80% apportionment to the Pastor Discretionary Fund and 20% to be allocated by RJM as an expression of our racial equity commitments. Evaluation and reassessment in three months. The motion was seconded by Kirstin Frescoln and approved by voice vote.

Renovation Team Report

Ian McPerson provided an update on the progress of the Renovation Team – a description of their accomplishments as well as the information, data, and process models that are now available to the

congregation. (Report is attached). In the future, the group will share proposals restructuring some of the boards to integrate their work and provide one unified story of Faith Formation throughout the lifespan as well as “who we are” and the values we share as a community.

Upcoming Schedule

- Annual Report Submittals (May 15)
- May Council Meeting (5/26)
- Spring Congregational Meeting (6/9)
- Handbook Updates (6/1)
- New Board/Council Member Orientation - TBD

Next Council Meeting: May 26, 2020

Closing:

Rev. David Mateo led the group in a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Demby, Clerk