

**United Church of Chapel Hill
Church Council Meeting, Special Meeting – March 24, 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
X	Jeff Hall, Adult Education		
			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		Guest:
		X	Ian McPherson – Assoc. Pastor

Call to Order – 7:00 PM

Gaylen Brubaker, Moderator

Opening Prayer

Cameron Barr, Sr. Pastor

Welcome and Sharing

Gayle Brubaker asked each member how they were faring during this time of isolation. There is less travel and more working from home. Some were counting the 'two weeks' needed for self-isolation following travel. There were joys shared about family connections as well.

Approval of Minutes

Karen Demby, Clerk

Motion: Peter Schay moved, and David Tanner seconded a motion to approve the 2/25/2020 Council meeting minutes with the correction of the date change.

Motion: Ron Johnson moved, and Lee Sorensen seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the special council meeting held on 3/13/2020 with the following modifications: Correct spelling of "McPherson" and record of the absence of Peter Schay.

Update on COVID-19 Actions

Cameron Barr summarized the activities of the COVID-19 Task Force, the members of which include the senior pastors of most Chapel Hill Churches and some regional churches. They have agreed to suspend public worship services through 5/17. He also described strategies and plans for activities that are taking place within the church to provide for worship and support of programs while there are restrictions in place to limit public gatherings. He cautions that things have gone well, however, there may be some need for lowered expectations due to limitations to what staff can accomplish from home. Staff will be compensated as if normal activities were occurring through the end of March, however, there will be an evaluation in early April to assess the sustainability of this approach. He noted that the

Pre School is closed through the season and staff cannot be supported without the tuition from families. How this will be handled will be discussed by a smaller subset of Council.

Gaylen commended Cameron on his exceptional leadership in his work within the community as well as with the development of creative strategies and approaches within our church during this time.

Discussion. Some questions were posed that were related to what approaches other churches were using to continue worship, programs, and even preschools. Cameron did not know for certain what others were doing but surmised that there might be a variety of approaches for worship. He did offer to inquire about what other churches with preschools were doing.

Millie Brobston asked lay leadership could do in support of the pastors and staff during this time. There were a number of suggestions. One was to provide an extravagant welcome to those who might not otherwise come to our church. We have been conducting worship online. Smaller churches may not have the capacity to do the same or even to meet. Another was to offer a list of how people might be involved in the community. Cameron shared a list that was developed by Mary Elizabeth which will be made available. The list shows area organizations and their needs. Finally, it was suggested that the UCCH web could be used to share information and resources to help our church and the community.

Lee Sorensen noted that the Fellowship Board is highly dependent on being in church and welcomes suggestions for activities for the Board to undertake during this time.

2020 Budget/Financial Update

Derek Harrison, Treasurer, discussed two financial reports: February Dashboard and Analysis of Revenue and Expenses. Both are attached. Key things to note are the fact that, we are currently in a surplus, but we need to watch for big ticket items that are coming in the near future; since we are not gathering in person for church, the amount of funds received through plate will be less than expected. He encourages that we ask people to continue to honor pledges throughout this period.

Discussion. It would be useful to provide the congregation with an update about what we are doing and how we are managing during this period of reduced activities. This should include how we are taking care of staff, especially those whose income solely depends on worship. Cameron notes that we are not suggesting that there is a crisis at this point, however, some discussions about policy regarding personnel are needed since this is a situation that was not foreseen.

Spring Nomination Process

Karen Demby prepared a worksheet containing the names of the people that Board chairs had selected to approach about serving as leaders in the coming year. The next steps in the process is for Board Chairs or Board members to contact those on their lists to find out if they are willing to serve. This will provide the slate for the Congregation to vote on at the June meeting.

Discussion. Since the COVID-19 outbreak and related uncertainty and the strategic planning process, it was suggested that following the nomination process, which is essentially proceeding as if everything is normal, inappropriate. However, there were also comments that suggested that following the expected, normal process was just what was needed in uncertain times to help people get through them.

It had been proposed that we adjust the by-laws to accommodate a lower minimum in the number of members for each board – from 9 to 6, however, most Board chairs were comfortable with the numbers they have been working with, so that proposed change will not be pursued.

Strategic Planning

This was to entail a discussion of the suggested 'low hanging fruit' changing of the bylaws and was postponed as these were not time-sensitive in any way.

Adjournment

Pastor McPerson offered prayer and the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:35 pm

Next Council Meeting: April 22, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Demby, Clerk