

**Church Council Minutes**  
**October 26, 2021**

**Present**

Alyson Breisch, Children's Ministry  
Anne Stoddard, Trustees  
Cameron Barr, Senior Pastor  
Doug Bruce, Treasurer  
Erica Tillman, Assistant Moderator  
Jane Landreth, Clerk  
Jean Anne Barnes, Fellowship  
Jeremy O'Connor, At Large Member  
Larry Kroutil, Board of Justice, Outreach, and Services (BJOS)  
Linda Sellars, Adult Education  
Mary McMillan, Moderator  
Megan Hughes, Youth and Young Adults  
Nubia Rivero Bello, At Large Member  
Peter Schay, Deacon  
Robin Smith, At Large Member  
Soren Potthoff., At Large Member  
Susan Renwick, Membership, Engagement and Stewardship (MES)

**Additional Attendees**

Ian McPherson, Associate Pastor  
Jody Forehand, Membership, Engagement and Stewardship (MES)  
Mary Elizabeth Hanchey, Associate Pastor

Interpretation services provided by Murtado Language Solutions.

**Call To Order:** Mary McMillan, Moderator called the meeting to order.

**Invocation:** Cameron Barr gave the opening prayer.

**Recognition of Visitors**

Pastors Ian McPherson and Mary Elizabeth Hanchey and Jody Forehand were welcomed.

**Approval of the Agenda**

The Council approved the October 26, 2021 agenda as prepared.

**New Business**

None

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**Senior Pastor Report**

**COVID-19 Update**

- Cameron is continuing to participate in the Community Clergy Group.
- The trend of COVID-19 transmission in this area is positive and there is hope that this trend will continue through the winter.
- All congregations represented in the group are loosening restrictions.
- Based on the Community Health Guidelines and Practices adopted as a community and published in worship bulletins and online on the UCCH website on the [Our Response to COVID-19 page](#), UCCH is moving forward with **two** changes on **November 14, 2021**. **Note that local COVID-19 statistics will be monitored and changes to the policy will be modified as and when required.** Upcoming changes:
  - The church building will be available for non-worship purposes such as Adult Education, Confirmation Class and other faith formation activities. The goal is to start small and make incremental changes as indicated.
  - Program Leaders will make the decision to meet indoors or outdoors.
  - Teachers and Leaders will be responsible for cleaning their rooms after the activity. Cleaning supplies will be supplied. However, teachers who require additional cleaning materials should contact Kati Ruark.
  - In order to increase air circulation and ventilation inside, Kati Ruark has purchased several air filters to supplement those currently being used in classrooms most impacted.

**Personnel Update**

- **Organist:** Jenny Anderson is leading the search and the plan is to repost the job and advertise more stringently in the spring.
- **La Mesa Band Director:** Associate Pastor David Mateo is heading the search.
- **Full Time Sexton:** This search is in an active phase. Responsibilities of the position include: provision of custodial services, grounds keeping and maintenance. If anyone is aware of any candidates, please contact Cameron Barr or Kati Ruark.
- **Information Available:** Job descriptions for all three positions can be found on the [Careers at United Church of Chapel Hill page](#) on the UCCH website.

**Reflections on Church Participation and Leadership:** Cameron Barr provided the following insights:

- Attendance is down and several Boards are short members.
- Our lives may not go back to the way it was before the COVID-19 pandemic; we are working with a new reality which will require us to think more creatively about this moment in time.

**Approval of the Minutes**

The September 28, 2021 minutes were approved as amended.

**Motion:** Megan Hughes

**Second:** Alyson Breisch

**Motion Carried**

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**Financial Update and Final 2021 Budget Updates by Doug Bruce, Treasurer:**

- **Important Message:** Although UCCH is 75% through the year, 68% of revenue has been collected. We need a strong finish in the fourth quarter to close out the year.
- Report:
  - Year to date total revenues are more than \$36K under budget.
  - However, total expenses YTD also are under budget YTD by more than \$69k.
  - Net result of being under budget on revenues and under budget on expenses is that UCCH is at a \$5k deficit year to date but better than the forecasted deficit by almost \$33k.

**Feedback from Listening Sessions – Anne Stoddard**

**Attendees:**

- Live streaming is a valuable option for older members in our congregation both for worship and faith formation.
- UCCH needs to consider the complexity of live and virtual meetings.
- Technical staff is vital for ensuring professional assistance with live streaming.
- Has a mid- year salary increase larger than 2% been considered due to the larger increases in cost of living?
  - A 2% mid-year increase has been included in the budget; will revisit in 2022 based on the results of the Stewardship Campaign and how giving is progressing.

**Input from Treasurer and Trustees:**

- The Church Council and UCCH Boards need to enthusiastically support the Stewardship “Share Your Light’ campaign.
- Concrete ways for the Council and Board members to demonstrate support are to attend the annual meeting on November 3, 2021 and to pledge in the Stewardship Campaign.

**Board Updates**

**Membership, Engagement and Stewardship: Jody Forehand** discussed upcoming plans:

- The “Share Your Light” campaign will be for three weeks, starting on November 7, 2021 ending on November 21, 2021.
- MES is encouraging the congregation to send in pledges early.

**Adult Education: Linda Sellars** presented the following information:

- The Adult Education board is hoping to have Advent educational sessions in December.
- Hopefully, Adult Forums can start in 2022.

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**Board of Justice, Outreach and Services (BJOS):** Larry Kroutil presented the following:

- An opportunity has opened up for participation of members of UCCH, United Voices of Praise {UVOP}, Fisher Memorial, and Liberation Station in the [Durham Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope](#) on July 15-17, 2022.
- No additional information has been received about UCCH assisting in the provision of services for Afghan Refugees.
- Lay contacts needed to represent UCCH in these groups:
  - Habitat for Humanity
  - Orange County Justice United
  - Orange County Bail Bond Justice Project
- Per Associate Pastor Ian McPherson:
  - **Orange County Justice United (OCJU):** A \*very\* active group of people are involved in this work effort. OCJU has called together research teams on three issues facing residents of Orange County: Affordable Housing, Mental Healthcare Access (especially for Latinx families), and Bail Bond Reform. There are UCCH members on all three of these research teams, which are defining the grassroots organizing agenda for OCJU in the months ahead.
  - **Open and Affirming Committee (ONA):** The Queer Bible Study in conjunction with Jubilee Baptist Church has been relaunched and meets the first and third Thursdays of the month.

**Children's Ministry:** Alyson Breisch previewed the following activities sponsored by Children's Ministry:

- The Children's Ministry Board will be making phone contact with the children and their families to see how they are doing.
- Halloween Festival: Sunday, October 31, 2021 from 2:00 – 3:00 PM.
- Gratitude Sunday: Sunday, November 14, 2021; rain date is Sunday, November 21, 2021.
- Giving Tree: Church members will be encouraged to donate by check or direct deposit (rather than purchasing gifts). Gift cards will be purchased with the donations and given to the same groups as before.

**Deacons:** Peter Schay discussed the following:

- There is a need for ushers to serve on Sunday mornings during the Christmas season. Anne Stoddard proposed that the two Trustees who are there every Sunday to count the donations could assist in ushering if needed.
- Work is in progress to develop a plan for volunteers to distribute the altar flowers to shut-ins after Sunday service.
- The board only has six members; needs three more.

**Fellowship:** Jean Anne Barnes discussed potential plans:

- The Coffee Hour will remain outside if weather permits. Otherwise it will be moved inside the building.
- On Saturday, December 4, 2021 at noon, the Fellowship Board will host a Christmas celebration to kick off the Advent season. Susan Renwick said that she will confirm whether MES could host a coffee hour at the same time.

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**Youth and Young Adults: Megan Hughes** provided the following updates:

- An outing to Camp Chestnut Ridge is being planned.
- Exploring other activities:
  - Asking the Youth to assess during the Halloween festival.
  - Service Projects.
  - Creating Blessing Bags for people experiencing homelessness.
  - Christmas possibilities:
    - Youth Caroling?
    - Ugly Sweater Contest?

**Trustees: Anne Stoddard** reviewed the following:

- Once the budget is passed, the Trustees will focus on construction projects from small to large.
- Will take a proactive approach to racial equity.
- The Financial Policy Procedures needs to be updated.

**Upcoming Events:**

- **Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 7:00 PM:** Budget Review and Approval
- **Tuesday, December 7, 2021** – in person Church Council meeting

**Closing Meditation – Mary Elizabeth Hanchey** discussed the importance of:

- Striving to figure out how to be the church we are becoming.
- Valuing connecting with each other as well as gathering in person.

**Meeting Adjourned by Mary McMillan**

**Respectfully Submitted by Jane Landreth, Clerk**

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**Appendix 1  
Action Items**

#	Area	Owner	Action	Date Due	Status
1	Deacons (Peter Schay)	Cameron Barr	Need to complete planning for Christmas services in order to identify staffing requirements.	11.16.2021	Open
2	Deacons (Peter Schay)	Cameron Barr	Notify the congregation about the new plan to distribute flowers to shut-ins.	Open	Open