

**Church Council Minutes**  
**September 28, 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

**Absent**

Susan Renwick, Membership, Engagement and Stewardship (MES)

**Additional Attendees**

David Mateo, Associate Pastor  
Jenny Anderson, Director of Music  
Jody Forehand, Membership, Engagement and Stewardship (MES)  
Ian McPherson, Associate Pastor  
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.

**Approval of the Agenda**

The Council approved the September 28, 2021 agenda as prepared.

**New Business**

None

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**Council Meeting Minutes**

**Discussion**

**Purpose of Minutes:** Cameron reviewed the purpose of Council minutes; to document **actions** taken by the Church Council. All formal motions whether accepted or denied should be included.

**United Church of Chapel Hill Safe Conduct Policy**

Presented by Meghan Hughes

The development of the Safe Conduct Policy has been in process for 2 years with Ian McPherson leading the effort. It was a joint collaboration of Children's Ministries, Youth Ministries and members with expertise in child and youth development. See separate attachment entitled **UCCH Safe Conduct Policy Council Draft.docx** for the draft policy.

**Proposed Motion**

Motion to adopt the UCCH Safe Conduct Guidelines as the policy to support our Youth and Children while at UCCH facilities and UCCH-sponsored off-site events. This policy should be reviewed annually by the Children's and Youth Boards to determine if any revisions are to be made and any updates will be presented to the Church Council during the August Council Meeting.

- **Motion:** Megan Hughes
- **Second:** Not required because the motion was presented by the Board of Youth and Young Adult Ministries.
- **Motion Carried**

**Board Updates**

**Finance:** **Doug Bruce** and **Anne Stoddard** provided an update on the annual finances and a summary of the budget process.

**Doug Bruce** reported on the year to date revenue and expenses.

**Anne Stoddard** presented information on:

- Budget 1 - based on expenditures of the each board during the past 12 months.
- Budget 2 – aspiration spending based on what UCCH boards need to reengage with the congregation at large.

The process to develop and approve the budget is as follows:

- 2 listening session were held in October, 2021.
- Trustees met October 19, 2021 to discuss the input.
- November 2, 2021 is the target date for requesting congregational approval of the budget.

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- **Anne Stoddard** requested that UCCH Board chairs contact her for requests to change their input to Budget 1 or Budget 2.
- **Ian McPherson** inquired whether there was enough funding in the budget to support bilingual interpretation including for Adult Education sessions.
- **David Mateo** asked whether the rate for the translation services should be increased. He will schedule a meeting with Kati Ruark, the translator and himself to discuss.

**IT Task Force:** **Mary McMillan** stated that there will be a meeting this week with a subset of the IT Task Force and next week with all members and will request a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the desired work.

**Fellowship:** **Jean Anne Barnes** discussed the possibility of holding a Christmas Fair during the first or second week in December and asked that UCCH Boards consider how they could support this event. See suggested activities on page 5.

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

- Faith and Family and Adult education activities are ongoing.
- The Defund the Police sessions are ongoing.

**Children's Ministries:** **Alyson Breisch** reviewed possible activities for the rest of the year:

- Halloween Fall Festival: Attendees would go home with a Gratitude Jar.
- Gratitude Sunday: November 14, 2021.
- Children and Youth Ministries will present Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat On November 14, 2021.

**Youth and Young Adults:** **Megan Hughes** reported on the following activities:

- Confirmation classes will begin on Sunday, October 3, 2021 with around 10 – 12 confirmands.
- Considering outside service opportunities.
- In the process of developing the fall schedule.

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

- Listening sessions to be held on October 2, 2021 and October 16, 2021.
- The Stewardship and Giving Campaign to be shorter this year (roughly around 3 weeks) and will conclude in November.
- Considering sponsoring an event like Stone Soup with the Fellowship Board.

**Deacons:** **Peter Schay** presented the following:

- Most of the deacons' energy and focus is centered on remaining flexible to adapt to changing conditions.
- Continued evolution should be expected.
- Would like to involve Council members in the following activities:
  - Organizing weekly flower arrangement for Sunday services.
  - Distributing flowers to shut-ins with assistance from other boards.

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

- \$ 6897 was donated to Benevolence Farm to support the tiny home construction project. This donation closed out the Spreading Justice Initiative funds.
- Have begun preparations to support the resettlement of Afghan refugees once the Church World Service (CWS) organization identifies refugees to be resettled in the area.
  - Cameron has a list of individuals who have volunteered to help; roughly a team of 8 – 10 people is needed.
  - Upon receipt, will circulate information from CWS about the support required.
  - The [Refugee Support Center](#) has information on how to help.

**Pastoral Update: Cameron Barr** reported:

- COVID-19 Preparedness:
  - He continues to attend the Chapel Hill Clergy group.
  - There is no significant change in the status of COVID-19 in area therefore there have been no meaningful changes in the building policy.
  - Worship practices are slowly evolving as conditions permit; Communion has been reintroduced
  - A COVID-19 update was sent to the congregation in September. Additionally, information was posted on the UCCH website: [Our Response to COVID-19](#).

**Closing Prayer:** Given by Cameron Barr.

**Meeting Adjourned**

**Respectfully Submitted by Jane Landreth, Clerk**

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**Appendix 1**

**Christmas Celebration Fair Ideas**

**Live Nativity** – possibly permit children to dress in the costumes we have and stand with the nativity for a photo

**Giving Tree** -- posters introducing the recipients and promoting the purchase of Gift cards

**Bake Sale** pickup of pre-ordered items

**Collection** for Diaper Bank or other group

**Christmas card table** – sign a card to be mailed to UCCH member from pastoral Care list

**White board** -- for people to list favorite carols

**Large coloring mural** – mark spaces where people can color apart from each other

**Blow up slide** – single child activity

**Playground** - open behind church

**Take home** – UCCH ornament, decorate your cookie kit