

**Church Council Minutes  
December 7, 2021**

**Present**

Alyson Breisch, Children's Ministry  
Anne Stoddard, Trustees  
Cameron Barr, Senior Pastor  
Doug Bruce, Treasurer  
Jane Landreth, Clerk  
Jean Anne Barnes, Fellowship  
Larry Kroutil, Board of Justice, Outreach, and Services (BJOS)  
Linda Sellars, Adult Education  
Mary McMillan, Moderator  
Nubia Rivero Bello, At Large Member  
Peter Schay, Deacon  
Robin Smith, At Large Member

**Not Present**

Erica Tillman, Assistant Moderator  
Jeremy O'Connor, At Large Member  
Megan Hughes, Youth and Young Adults  
Soren Potthoff, At Large Member  
Susan Renwick, Membership, Engagement and Stewardship (MES)

**Additional Attendees**

David Mateo, Associate Pastor  
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 delivered a responsive reading of Psalm 115.

**Recognition of Visitors**

Pastors David Mateo, Ian McPherson and Mary Elizabeth Hanchey were welcomed.

**New Business**

None

**Agenda Approval**

**Motion Text:** To accept the agenda for the December 7, 2021 meeting.

**Motion Proposed By:** Mary McMillan

**First:** Peter Schay

**Second:** Anne Stoddard

**Motion Carried**

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**Senior Pastor Report**

**COVID-19 Update**

- Cameron Barr continues to attend the bi-weekly COVID-19 Community Clergy Group.
- Although the Delta variant poses the biggest threat at this time, caution is urged with the spread of the Omicron variant.
- As a church, we need to continue to remain watchful and flexible.

**Personnel Update**

- **Information Available:** Job descriptions for the remaining two positions can be found on the [Careers at United Church of Chapel Hill page](#) on the UCCH website.
  - **Organist:** At this time, UCCH is not advertising widely for this position but plans to ramp up in the spring. The substitute organists have been outstanding.
  - **La Mesa Band Director:** Associate Pastor David Mateo is leading the search and has identified a potential candidate.
  - **Full Time Sexton: Position filled; Bruce Thomas** accepted this position and will begin work on December 8, 2021.
- **Director for Children's Ministry:** Anitra Grove will be leaving on January 2, 2022. Rather than rush to make a decision, input will be solicited from families with children.

**2022 Planning: Assessment of Worship Times**

- **2021**
  - In person worship began on August 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - Adult Forum started.
  - The Festival Service is growing; on December 4<sup>th</sup>, there were 140 worshippers.
  - The La Mesa Service has not yet recovered. Pastor Mateo sent one hundred and six questionnaires to worshippers; sixty-three responded. The two primary reasons for not attending La Mesa were the new time schedule and the pandemic.
- **2022**
  - **January/February:** Need to formally gather data to assess what works, what doesn't work and whether we should we rethink UCCH goals. Should we convene a task force to formally identify issues and concerns and develop a worship strategy? Plan to reach out to families with children to assess readiness for return to in person worship
  - **Children's Ministry:** Cameron Barr and Alyson Breisch will work together on spring plans.

**Reflections on Church Participation and Leadership: Cameron Barr**

- Currently, there are vacancies on numerous boards. In the early spring, the congregation will be informed about these vacancies.
- Board chairs can add members to their boards; need to send the names to the Church Council and the Council will approve.

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**Stewardship**

- As of the end of November, 2021, 70% of the goal had been attained; this number does not include monthly contributions. As of December, 2020, 60% of the goal had been attained (on a smaller budget)

**Ministers' Housing Allowance**

**Motion Text:** The Chair moves to approve the pastor's housing allowances (portion excluded from income tax) as listed in the approved 2022 Budget and as listed below:

- Cameron Barr: \$35,000
- David Mateo: \$33,444
- Ian McPherson: \$20,000
- Mary Elizabeth Hanchey: \$35,000

**Motion Proposed By:** Mary McMillan

**Second:** Peter Schay

**Motion Carried**

**Sanctuary Committee Funding and Refugee Update: Larry Kroutil**

- Larry commended Ingrid Schmidt, Henry Lister and Flicka Bateman for their support of the Afghan Resettlement effort.
- Initial meeting of interested volunteers held on December 4<sup>th</sup>; around twenty individuals attended.
- Cameron Barr and Larry Kroutil completed the Church and World Service (CWS) Readiness Assessment and rated UCCH as experienced in refugee resettlement but not during a pandemic.
- At this point, UCCH has not been called on to provide support.
- In the process of identifying existing and new funding sources.
- See **Appendix 1** on **page 6** for additional information.

**Motion Text:** To approve broadening designated fund 8152 (Emergency Immigration-Sanctuary) to be a fund for Sanctuary, Immigrant, and Refugee Support.

**Motion Proposed By:** Larry Kroutil

**First:** Mary McMillan

**Second:** Peter Schay

**Motion Carried**

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

- **Report as of October, 2021**
  - Year to date (YTD) total revenues are less than budget by over 38K.
  - Total expenses are less than budget YTD by over 75K.
  - Net result of being under budget on revenues and under budget on expenses is that UCCH is at a \$5k surplus YTD but better than budget by almost 37K.

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**Board Updates**

**Trustees: Anne Stoddard**

- Primary concern centered on short and long term maintenance issues. A group of Trustees is working on long term maintenance reserves.
- The Financial Policy and Procedures document is antiquated and is undergoing review and revision.
- Work under way to review the designated funds and to clarify the fund descriptions.
- It is proving challenging to engage contractors to complete the required maintenance.

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

- The Men's Chorus from Reentry House Plus will be singing at the La Mesa Service on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Adult Education: Linda Sellars**

- The first of two Adult Forum sessions completed with good attendance.

**Children's Ministry: Alyson Breisch**

- The Giving Tree raised \$7500 which will be distributed by gift cards to:
  - [Seawell Elementary School](#)
  - [Fisher Memorial United Holy Church](#)
  - [Refugee Support Center](#)
  - [First In Families](#)
- Children's Ministry Board meeting scheduled for December 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Deacons: Peter Schay**

- In the process of setting up the new kiosk in the Narthex. The altar flowers will be placed there post service and church members can choose to take the flowers to shut-ins. The weekly prayer list and church directory can be posted as a reference.
- The Deacons are short three members.

**Fellowship: Jean Anne Barnes**

- Expressed appreciation for support from multiple boards during the **successful Celebration and Hanging of the Greens** event on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> and felt it would be a good model for future events.

**Youth and Young Adults: Ian McPherson**

- The Youth Board met the previous weekend.
- The Board is considering expanding youth activities beyond Confirmation and revisiting the recommendations of the Ministry Architects.

**IT Task Force: Mary McMillan**

- The task force is finalizing proposals and hopes to make a decision in January, 2022.

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**Recap of Action Items: Jane Landreth**

- There were no action items identified.

**Upcoming Schedule:**

- **Tuesday January 11, 2022:** In person Council meeting
- **Tuesday, February 22, 2022:** Council meeting

**Closing Prayer: David Mateo**

**Adjournment: Mary McMillan**

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**Respectfully Submitted by Jane Landreth, Clerk**

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**Appendix 1**

**Sanctuary, Immigrant, and Refugee Support**  
**Submitted by: Larry Kroutil**

**Motion:** To approve broadening designated fund 8152 (Emergency Immigration-Sanctuary) to be a fund for Sanctuary, Immigrant, and Refugee Support.

Here are key reasons for the recommended change.

- 1) A designated fund focused more broadly on sanctuary, immigrant, and refugee support is more likely to be used over the long term compared with funds that are focused narrowly on refugee resettlement or sanctuary support.

United Church previously had a designated fund for refugee resettlement to assist in resettling Karen families for which funds were not being spent. We donated the balance to the Refugee Support Center to close out the fund. Similarly, we have not been spending money out of the Sanctuary designated fund because we are not currently working with local churches to support anyone receiving sanctuary to prevent deportation.

In contrast, there are likely to be longer term needs in offering support to immigrants, including refugees from Central and South America. (Afghanistan is not the only place where people are seeking refuge from difficult political situations.)

- 2) This designated fund would help as a starting point to fund refugee resettlement.

Information that BJOS has received via the Refugee Support Center in Carrboro suggests that churches will likely need to move quickly once they are contacted to assist in settling a family. If a critical mass of people at United Church are available and interested in assisting with refugee resettlement, there will be a need for additional fundraising in the future. Nevertheless, the availability of funds from 8152 to support refugee resettlement would mean we are not starting from zero.

- 3) People who are interested in making donations to help support refugee resettlement would not need to wait for a designated fund to be set up specifically for refugee resettlement.

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**Appendix 2  
Action Items**

#	Area	Owner	Action	Date Due	Status
			None		