

Church Council Minutes
March 29, 2022

PRESENT

Cameron Barr, Senior Pastor
Mary McMillan, Moderator
Erica Tillman, Assistant Moderator
Doug Bruce, Treasurer
Alyson Breisch, Children's Ministry
Anne Stoddard, Trustees
Jean Anne Barnes, Fellowship
Larry Kroutil, Board of Justice, Outreach, and Service
Linda Sellars, Adult Education
Peter Schay, Deacons
Nubia Rivero Bello, At Large Member
Robin Smith, At Large Member
Jeremy O'Connor, At Large Member
Soren Potthoff, At Large Member

NOT PRESENT

Susan Renwick, Membership, Engagement and Stewardship (MES)
Rae Buckley, Board of Youth and Young Adults
David Taylor, Music Committee
Jenny Anderson, Director of Music
Rev. David Mateo, Associate Pastor
Rev. Mary Elizabeth Hanchey, Associate Pastor
Jane Landreth, Clerk

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

Anitra Grove, Interim Director of Family Ministry

INTERPRETATION SERVICES: Provided by Murtado Language Solutions.

CALL TO ORDER: Moderator **Mary McMillan** called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION: Senior Pastor **Cameron Barr**

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS: Moderator **Mary McMillan** recognized the attendance of Anitra Grove.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Clerk Jane Landreth circulated draft minutes for the February 22, 2022 Council meeting before the meeting and made corrections based on email comments submitted by Council members. **Mary McMillan** asked for Council approval of the corrected minutes by consensus and the minutes were so approved.

NEW BUSINESS: None

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AGENDA APPROVAL: **Mary McMillan** asked if there were any new items to add to the agenda. In the absence of new items, she moved for approval of the agenda for the March 29, 2022 meeting.

Second: Peter Schay

Vote: Unanimous approval

APPROVAL OF RAE BUCKLEY AS CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

Mary McMillan noted that Megan Hughes has resigned as chair of the Board of Youth and Young Adults and moved approval of the recommendation that Rae Buckley be appointed as the new chair.

Second: Peter Schay

Vote: Unanimous approval

SENIOR PASTOR REPORT

Personnel: **Cameron Barr** introduced Anitra Grove in the new position of Director of Family Ministries which will be responsible for children and youth programs.

COVID-19 Update: **Cameron Barr** noted that as case numbers have dropped and Chapel Hill/Orange County eliminated mask mandates, churches participating in the COVID-19 Community Clergy Group have begun to diverge in their COVID protocols. Some churches, relying on CDC case maps, have made masks optional based on Chapel Hill/Orange County's low rate of positive COVID tests. Other churches have decided to follow the lead of the local school system with respect to mask requirements. Given the divergence of approaches, **Cameron Barr** asked for Council guidance on UCCH's COVID protocols going forward.

After discussion, the Council agreed that **Cameron Barr** should update the UCCH Community Covenant on COVID Response to:

- Continue to require masks in worship services.
- Encourage mask use, but make masks optional for larger non-worship events.
- Make masks optional for small group meetings, but encourage members to consider the risk of attendees.
- Follow school system policy (currently masks are optional) for youth and children over age five.
- Continue to require full masking for classes and events involving children under age five.

Cameron Barr indicated the Council guidance did not require a motion and formal vote of the Council.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Doug Bruce provided copies of the most recent financial report which shows a significant surplus. At the end of February, UCCH had a budget surplus of just over \$85,000.00 due to higher revenues and lower expenditures than had been budgeted.

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Anne Stoddard reported that delay in receiving necessary parts continues to slow the online worship streaming project.

Anne Stoddard also reported on other Board of Trustees activities:

- Development of a contractor list to better carry out the UCCH racial justice covenant.
- Research on use of a money transfer platform such as Venmo.
- Update of the UCCH financial policy statement.

BOARD UPDATES

• BJOS Recommendation on Alternative Gift Market

Larry Kroutil reported that Henry Lister has asked Council to approve planning for an in-person Alternative Gift Market in November 2022.

Motion: **Larry Kroutil** made a motion for the Council to endorse planning for an in-person Alternative Gift Market in November as long as public health conditions allow.

Second: **Peter Schay**

Vote: Unanimous approval.

• New Board Member Discussion

Mary McMillan encouraged board chairs to think about the number of people their board actually needs to get the job done as they seek new board members for the upcoming church year. Boards can also review their mission statements and revise if necessary.

• Debrief of First 6 Months

Fellowship

Jean Anne Barnes: Plans for Easter Sunday are still uncertain; Fellowship is exploring options for safely sharing food on Easter morning. Senior Pastor Barr expressed a desire to have an Easter breakfast in some form. Although the church needs to maintain mask use in the Sanctuary worship services, there is more latitude in the Fellowship Hall where people can share food and remove masks to eat.

BJOS

Larry Kroutil:

- BJOS is working on a simple application for people to use in requesting funds from the Mission and Outreach Endowment.
- The Open and Affirming Ministry is in transition since Ian McPherson left UCCH.
- There is a need for succession planning in some areas, such as prison ministries.
- The Shrove Tuesday pancake supper raised \$4,700.00 for refugee support, nearly reaching the \$5,000.00 goal.

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Children's Ministry

Alyson Breisch:

- Board positions are currently filled, but two members will rotate off in July.
- The Board will be discussing metrics for the coming year.
- Standard Operating Procedure document will be reviewed.
- Encouraged participation in the upcoming CROP Walk.

Trustees

Anne Stoddard: Trustees will need three new members.

Doug Bruce: Trustees are discussing metrics and will do a six-month review.

Deacons

Peter Schay: In terms of metrics, the Deacons are focusing on the need for both Deacons and volunteers to usher. Six new Deacons will be needed.

Adult Education

Linda Sellars: Adult Education has begun to meet in person, but has used a tech platform to also allow remote participation. Although there have been a few problems, the hybrid approach has generally worked.

NEXT STEPS

Mary McMillan noted ongoing questions about the Sunday morning schedule and the effect on participation. She observed that the current schedule has had the beneficial effect of allowing people from the entire congregation, including La Mesa, to participate in adult education together. But she also noted that the schedule is clearly affecting attendance. Council will need to revisit the issue of the Sunday schedule, especially because of the impact on the La Mesa participants.

Nubia Bello Rivero expressed appreciation for **Mary McMillan** mentioning the schedule. She indicated that many people attending La Mesa work on Saturday, so Sunday is the only day they can sleep in and be together. The early worship time on Sunday makes that difficult.

NEW BUSINESS

Anne Stoddard asked whether UCCH should reach out to our German sister church to find out if that church needs donations for Ukrainian refugee relief. **Cameron Barr** said there are several reasons to outreach to our sister church now since the church also has a new minister. **Cameron Barr and Anne Stoddard** will work together on a letter reaching out to that congregation.

RECAP ACTION ITEMS

Robin Smith, filling in for Jane Landreth, identified the two action items from the meeting:

- **Cameron Barr** will update the UCCH Community Covenant on COVID Response to reflect Council guidance
- **Cameron Barr and Anne Stoddard** will work together on outreach to our German sister church.

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Motion to Adjourn: Peter Schay

Second: Alyson Breisch

Vote: Unanimous

CLOSING PRAYER: Mary McMillan

Respectfully submitted: Robin Smith