**PRESENT**

Cameron Barr, Senior Pastor

Mary McMillan, Moderator

Erica Tillman, Asst. Moderator

Doug Bruce, Treasurer

Robin Smith, Clerk

Cindy Johnson, Adult Ed

Larry Kroutil, Board of Justice, Outreach, and Service

Toby McCoy, Children’s Ministry

Midge Coward, Deacons

Susan Denault, Membership, Engagement and Stewardship

Vicki Gardner, Trustees

Rae Buckley, Youth

Cole Nicholson, At Large Member

Robin Smith, At Large Member

Soren Potthoff, At Large Member

Nubia Rivero Bello, At Large Member

Lee Sorenson (for Fellowship Bd)

Rev. David Mateo, Associate Pastor

Anitra Grove, Director of Family Ministry for Youth and Children

Jenny Anderson, Music Director

**NOT PRESENT**

Bill Chicurel

Soren Pothoff

Hugo Guttierez

Mary Elizabeth Hanchey

**INTERPRETATION SERVICES:**  Provided by Murtado Language Solutions: Murtado Bustillos and Angie Schiavone

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

**INVOCATION:**  **Senior Pastor** **Cameron Barr**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the May 2022 meeting had been approved online. **Clerk Robin Smith** and **Moderator Mary McMillan** will put together notes on the annual congregational meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS: Larry Kroutil** requested time to report on the Refugee Initiative

**AGENDA APPROVAL: Mary McMillan** asked for approval of the agenda with the addition of the one new item of business concerning the refugee initiative.

**Motion to approve the agenda:** Midge Coward

**Second:** Susan Denault

**Vote:** Unanimous approval

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

**Doug Bruce:** Year to date total revenues exceed budgeted revenue by more than $16,000.00; both pledged and unpledged contributions have exceeded the budgeted amount. Building use fees also exceed the budgeted amount by nearly $2,000. Year-to-date total expenses are under budget by more than $36,000.00 largely as the result of reduced spending on personnel. As a result, UCCH has a $27,000.00 surplus year to date and is under budget by nearly $53,000.00. UCCH will likely end the year with a small deficit or a surplus.

**Vicki Gardner:** September 9 is the deadline for boards to submit budget proposals for the next fiscal year to the Trustees. There will be a listening session on October 7 and the stewardship drive will kick off on October 9.

The original scope of work for the online streaming project has been completed, but the sanctuary sound system has become unreliable. **Grant Berry** will develop recommendations to address the sound system issues. **Cameron Barr** indicated that Trustees will be asked to work with Berry to develop and fund a project to correct the problems as soon as possible.

**Mary McMillan** reported that the church is also undertaking a full review of building security in response to recent incidents in which church doors had been left unlocked. A team of trustees and deacons has been asked to take the lead on identifying any steps the church should take to improve security.

**SENIOR PASTOR REPORT**

**Cameron Barr** again encouraged board chairs to find time for their boards to engage in both fellowship and service. He identified a specific opportunity for Church Council members to engage in service by volunteering with the IFC. Due to Covid protocols, the IFC now uses teams of three people to put together boxed meals; **Pastor Barr** committed UCCH to send a team on the first Wednesday of each month through the end of the year to help package meals. During the Council meeting, **Pastor Barr** circulated a signup sheet for Council members able to volunteer.

**Covid-19 Update: Pastor Barr** reported that the regular Covid-19 briefings for Chapel Hill pastors have been reduced to once every two weeks; he does not attend all of the meetings, but receives updates on current conditions. The UCCH policy of requiring masks in the worship services will continue; **Pastor Barr** indicated that an abrupt change in mask policy could cause concern among elderly members and families with young children.

**Personnel Update: Pastor Barr** asked for help in finding someone to fill the open Communications Manager position.

UCCH administrator **Kati Ruark** is expecting a baby in November and **Pastor Barr** requested contributions to a small fund to provide a gift to her family. She has a baby gift registry and is also interested in receiving children’s books. Council members can contribute by giving cash or making a Venmo transfer to **Pastor Barr**. Contributions will be used to select a gift from the registry or children’s books.

**Anitra Grove** noted that UCCH is also hiring nursery staff for Sunday mornings and occasional Wednesday evenings. She is taking the lead in filling those positions.

**Debrief on Church Planning Session: Pastor Barr** asked for feedback on the church planning session and what stood out about the experience for those who attended. Responses --

Larry Kroutil: The church needs to find out what people need and want.

Susan Denault: The church needs to do more digital outreach and communication.

**Pastor Barr** asked what kind of planning the church should do in the months ahead – what kind of conversations do we need to have as a community? In response, Council members discussed how to move forward with mask policies. **Toby McCoy** specifically asked whether Sunday School classes can request people to wear masks. **Pastor Barr** responded that Sunday School teachers can ask that attendees wear masks. He also reminded Council members that while masks are still required in worship services, smaller groups meeting in the church are encouraged to use discernment to decide whether masks should be worn in those meetings. **Erica Tillman** expressed concern that some people attending a recent funeral in the sanctuary didn’t wear masks.

**Susan Denault** asked whether notes from the planning meeting can be shared with Council members and **Moderator Mary McMillan** indicated that could be done.

**Memorial Garden Care: Pastor Barr** reported that the church has begun consulting with members about ways to make it a more welcoming space. He is particularly reaching out to families that visit the garden.

**Mary McMillan** asked **Pastor Mateo** to give an update on changes in the La Mesa service. **Pastor Mateo** reported that changing the time to 11:00 has led to increased attendance from one week to the next. The later start time benefits the people who have been coming from other communities, such as Mebane and Siler City, to attend the La Mesa service. The change also allows people to attend both the sanctuary service and the La Mesa service if they choose. The challenge created by the time change is that it will conflict with the adult forum and children’s church school. People will have to choose between attending the La Mesa service or the children and adult education classes. **Nubia Rivero Bello** said the change has been beneficial; the later time makes it easier for people to attend if they had to work on Saturday night. **Anitra Grove** noted that the change in La Mesa services fits the schedule for children’s church activities well. The nursery is open from 9:30-12:30 on Sunday mornings. Children’s music and Sunday School will be at 11:00, allowing children to participate in those activities while their parents are in the La Mesa service.

**Pastor Barr** asked if there were any objections to the revised schedule among Council members. **Cole Nicholson** asked whether the change meant that people attending the La Mesa service would be unable to participate in the adult education forum. **Pastor Mateo** responded that people will need to decide which to attend. **Cole** asked whether there was conflict over having to choose between attending the La Mesa service and the adult forum. **Pastor Mateo** was not aware of any conflict. **Cindy Johnson** indicated that the Adult Education Board is considering how to provide translation in the adult forum if needed. There were no other questions and no objections were raised by Council members concerning the revised Sunday schedule.

**BOARD UPDATES**

**BJOS: Larry Kroutil**

The church does not have the number of volunteers necessary to partner with a refugee family. UCCH has raised just over $4700.00 to support the refugee initiative; BJOS will consider a proposal to donate those monies to a fund for emergency immigration legal aid. **Larry Kroutil** indicated the Church Council does not need to approve that use of the funds since it falls within the scope of the refugee initiative.

**Children’s Ministry: Toby McCoy**

All Sunday School teaching positions have been filled thanks to the efforts of **Anitra Grove**. The Board of Children’s Ministry is planning a retreat in September.

**Adult Ed: Cindy Johnson**

Wednesday night programs will resume. The Adult Ed Board has purchased an Owls system to make it easier for people to participate in Adult Ed events virtually. Members of the board will be trained to set up the system, which works with existing online meeting apps to provide 360-degree camera coverage of those participating in person.

**MES: Susan Denault**

 • Planning for the Celebration of Ministries on August 28.

 • The Story Project will begin with an intergenerational event tied to the Stewardship Campaign kick-off. The event is being planned in collaboration with the Adult Ed, Children’s Ministry and Fellowship Boards.

 • The Board has added a budget item for digital marketing with the goal of expanding UCCH’s digital footprint.

 • Jody Forehand will lead the Stewardship Campaign; Seth Murray will work with her and prepare to lead the effort next year.

**Music Program: Jenny Anderson**

Choirs are beginning to rehearse. Additional instruments will be provided for the La Mesa service. The Negro Spirituals Royalty Program is ongoing.

**Trustees: Vicki Gardner**

* Project to upgrade sanctuary sound system.
* Working with Deacons on review of building security.

**Youth: Rae Buckley/Anitra Grove --** There are 10 confirmands in this year’s class.

**Fellowship: Lee Sorenson --** Fellowship Board members have new aprons to identify themselves.

**Deacons: Midge Coward**

The Deacon’s Health and Wellness Committee is no longer active.

There was a question about whether Deacons should ask people to mask for services and special events (such as memorial services).

**Review of Action Items: Robin Smith**

 **•** Prepare minutes for Congregational Meeting (**Mary McMillan/Robin Smith**)

 **•** Share notes from planning session with Council members (**Mary McMillan**)

 **•** Distribute information provided to members who attended the Council orientation session to all Council members (**Pastor Barr**)

**Closing Prayer**: **Reverend David Mateo**

**Respectfully submitted: Robin Smith, Clerk**