**PRESENT**

Mary McMillan, Moderator

Erica Tillman, Asst. Moderator

Doug Bruce, Treasurer

Robin Smith, Clerk

Toby McCoy, Children’s Ministry

Midge Coward, Deacons

Bill Chicurel, Fellowship

Larry Kroutil, Justice, Outreach and Service

Susan Denault, Membership, Engagement and Stewardship

Vicki Gardner, Trustees

Christine Harding, Youth and Young Adults

Cole Nicholson, At Large Member

Nubia Rivero Bello, At Large Member

Hugo Guttierez, At Large Member

Pastor Mary Elizabeth Hanchey, Acting Head of Staff

**Not Attending**

Rae Buckley

Soeren Potthoff

**Others Attending**

Jenny Anderson

Anitra Grove

Linda Soto

**INTERPRETATION SERVICES:**  Murtado Language Solutions

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

**INVOCATION:**  **Pastor Hanchey**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2023 meeting minutes: Mary McMillan**

**Second: Midge Coward**

**Vote:** **Unanimous approval**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA – NEW BUSINESS**

The agenda was amended by consensus to add approval of the Property Committee charter as the one item of new business.

**APPROVAL OF THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE CHARTER**

**Vicki Gardner** presented a draft charter for the Property Committee as a committee under the Board of Trustees. Committee members will serve seven-year terms and have responsibility for monitoring conditions in and around the UCCH building to identify maintenance and repair needs.

**Motion: Vicki Gardner** requested approval of the charter on behalf of the Board of Trustees

**Second: Christine Harding**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**ACTING HEAD OF STAFF REPORT**

**Rev. Hanchey** provided a personnel update:

• Rev. Hanchey is bringing together a group to help with pastoral care

• Caleb Wolf has begun working with the La Mesa community as coordinator

• A new La Mesa music position is being posted. Council approved the job description last year and money for the position was included in the 2023 budget.

Caleb Wolf is working on developing leadership within the La Mesa community and may organize three committees organized around worship, welcome and outreach. The groups will be organized as committees rather than boards because a number of the active participants in La Mesa are not church members; UCCH by-laws limit board membership to church members.

**Toby McCoy** raised a question about the La Mesa music director position. The posted job description indicates that proficiency in English and Spanish is preferred; McCoy asked whether English/Spanish proficiency should be required. In discussion, **Nubia Bello Rivero** and **Hugo Guttierez** both indicated that a bilingual music director would be good, but isn’t necessary. They indicated that non-Spanish speakers have worked effectively with the La Mesa worshipers before and Hugo Guttierez noted that music is an international language. **Pastor Hanchey** reported that it has been very difficult to attract bilingual applicants for other church positions. By consensus, the Council agreed that the position would not be limited to bilingual applicants, but the posting should be modified to give the preference for bilingual applicants greater visibility in the beginning of the job description.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

**Treasurer’s Report: Doug Bruce**

April has been a good month financially. Year-to-date revenues are higher than budgeted by approximately $13,000.00. (Revenue of $319,000.00 as compared to budgeted revenue of $306,000.00.) Expenditures have exceeded budget by a few thousand dollars as a result of building maintenance needs and somewhat higher utilities. UCCH has a year-to-date budget surplus of approximately $5,000.00.

Church business manager Duane Gilbert has been working with church accountants on the annual review of church financial procedures. The review is nearly complete; Gilbert just received an initial report and the accountants did not raise any red flags. The Board of Trustees will review the report in June.

**TRUSTEES**

**Vicki Gardner** reported on several ongoing projects:

• The exterior church doors between the kitchen and the music room will be put on lock timers as part of the ongoing enhancement of the security system.

• The Trustees are moving forward with replacement of the sanctuary soundboard. As approved by the Council in April, the Trustees will pay for the new soundboard with existing funds so the replacement can be installed quickly. At the same time, Trustees are asking for donations from interested church members to offset the cost.

**Midge Coward** asked whether timers could be set to allow an additional 15 minutes following services; she mentioned the experience of someone who couldn’t get into the church when they had to return for something left behind. **Vicki Gardner** suggested the request should go to Kati Ruark who can say yes or no to changes in the timer schedule.

**LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS**

The slate of nominees for church leadership positions is complete:

Moderator: Toby McCoy

Asst. Moderator: Linda Soto

Treasurer: Doug Bruce

Asst. Treasurer: Derek Harrison

Clerk: Robin Smith

**Motion: Bill Chicurel** moved to approve the slate of nominees and recommend them to the congregation. **Second: Cole Nicholson**

**Vote: Unanimous**

**Mary Elizabeth Hanchey** reported that at-large members for Church Council have not yet been identified. There is still work underway to find a new youth member and another at-large member to expand representation on the Council. Council discussion indicated that most boards have a reasonable number of members, but have space to add members during the year. The Youth Board only has four members and is still waiting to hear from several prospects.

**Larry Kroutil** raised a question about the possibility of continuing to serve on the Board of Justice, Outreach and Service (BJOS) beyond the end of his three-year term on June 30, 2023. BJOS will have one vacancy; Henry Lister will rotate off. Kroutil indicated that he is willing to continue to serve one more year and and replace Henry Lister as the liaison to the Alternative Gift Market. Kroutil asked whether Council approval would be required to allow him to serve an additional year.

Council members discussed the fact that UCCH by-laws only allow board members to serve one three-year term; they must then take at least one year off before serving on the same board again. [Article IV, Section 1(e)]. Council members noted that the purpose of the provision is to broaden participation in church leadership and to avoid having one member or group of members exercise too much influence over a board. Council members also discussed the fact that the search for 2023-2024 board members is still underway, so it is premature to decide that an exception needs to be made in order to have enough BJOS board members. Following discussion, the Council took no action on an exception to extend Larry Kroutil’s term on BJOS by one year.

**MODERATOR UPDATE**

**Moderator Mary McMillan** reviewed the successes and challenges of the past year. Among the challenges, UCCH continued to respond to changes brought about by Covid restrictions. In March, the Church Council endorsed a change in policy to make masks optional in worship services given the continuing drop in Covid cases. One ongoing challenge of the Covid disruptions has been the loss of youth involvement in Sunday School and youth programming. UCCH also grappled with the impact of Pastor Mateo’s suspension and resignation.

There have also been significant successes, including:

• Welcoming Jenny Shultz Thomas as Youth Minister

• Fundraising for the Habitat for Humanity Weaver’s Grove Community ($96,000 to date)

• A successful stewardship campaign that brought in a number of first-time pledges

• An effective and well-attended adult education program

• Updating the Open and Affirming Covenant

• Initiating a process for beautifying the Memorial Garden

• Engaging Caleb Wolf to serve as interim coordinator for the La Mesa community for six months and increased attendance at the La Mesa services.

**BOARD UPDATES**

**Cindy Johnson (Adult Education)**: Adult Ed will restart evening programs. One focus of Adult Ed will be revitalizing Earth Ministries with opportunities for engagement.

**Toby McCoy (Children):** Sunday School has ended for the year and Compassion Camp will be coming up in mid-June. Anitra Grove will lead Compassion Camp and make the transition to be UCCH Preschool director. **Anitra Grove** noted that the church added another nursery group during worship services for older children. Forty children have registered for Compassion Camp and playground meet-ups will be planned over the summer. The church will also celebrate the thirty-year history of UCCH Preschool and the leadership of Mary Glish.

**Midge Coward** **(Deacons)**: The Deacons have gained two new members, Tom and Kay Williams, but still have spots to fill on the Board of Deacons.

**Bill Chicurel (Fellowship)**: The Fellowship Board is looking toward the congregational covered dish lunch on June 11 in connection with the annual meeting. Jody Forehand has agreed to join the Fellowship Board this year and chair the board next year.

**Larry Kroutil (BJOS)**: More than 100 households have pledged in the fundraising effort for Habitat for Humanity’s Weaver’s Grove Community; approximately $96,000.00 has been pledged to date. The Alternative Gift Market will be live again next fall. The 2022 Alternative Gift Market raised:

• $5500.00 for Church World Service

• $1900.00 for Interfaith Council/Habitat for Humanity

• $2000.00 for the Peacemaking Scholarship

• $2700.00 for Prison Ministry

• $5700.00 through the online auction

The updated Open and Affirming Covenant will be submitted to the congregation for approval at the congregational meeting on June 11.

**Susan Denault (MES)**:The MES board is looking at ways to diversify communications. **Cole Nicholson** suggested more use of social media and expressed an interest in helping. MES is also expanding and reorganizing the stewardship campaign in recognition of the fact that younger adults are often more interested in directed giving (i.e., donating for a specific cause or purpose) than general giving.

**Christine Harding** (Youth/Young Adults):Jenny Schultz Thomas is working on rebuilding the youth program. A musical will be planned for the fall.

**LA MESA COMMUNITY**

**Hugo Guttierez** reported that 30-40 people are attending the La Mesa services. He served on the committee to recruit a coordinator for the La Mesa community and expressed support for the selection of Caleb Wolf. **Guttierez** asked whether Council approval would be needed for creation of three La Mesa committees (worship, welcome and outreach) that Caleb Wolf has suggested. There was agreement among Council members that La Mesa attendees can work with Caleb Wolf to organize committees; Council doesn’t need to approve each committee. Guttierez also noted the need to resume pastoral visits.

**Nubia Bello Rivero** expressed happiness about Caleb Wolf’s selection to coordinate the La Mesa community and thanked pastoral staff for their help since David Mateo’s resignation. **Bello Rivero** suggested that the church make a copy of the UCCH by-laws available in Spanish so Spanish-speaking members can better understand church structure. She also shared how much she enjoyed the recent joint Festival/La Mesa services and encouraged UCCH to have joint services on a regular basis.

**Closing Prayer**: **Mary Elizabeth Hanchey**

**Respectfully submitted: Robin Smith, Clerk**