

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

April 25, 2023

PRESENT

Mary McMillan, Moderator
Doug Bruce, Treasurer
Robin Smith, Clerk
Toby McCoy, Children's Ministry
Midge Coward, Deacons
Bill Chicurel, Fellowship
Susan Denault, Membership, Engagement and Stewardship
Vicki Gardner, Trustees
Christine Harding, Youth and Young Adults
Soeren Potthoff, At Large Member
Nubia Rivero Bello, At Large Member
Cameron Barr, Senior Pastor

Not Attending

Rae Buckley
Hugo Gutierrez
Cole Nicholson
Larry Kroutil

Others Attending

Rev. Mary Elizabeth Hanchey

INTERPRETATION SERVICES: Murtado Language Solutions

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

INVOCATION: Pastor Barr

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2023 meeting minutes: Vicki Gardner

Second: Doug Bruce

Vote: Unanimous approval

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – NEW BUSINESS

Bill Chicurel asked that discussion of the Walking Labyrinth be added to the agenda. **Moderator McMillan** suggested that it would be appropriate to talk about that as part of the report from the Fellowship Board.

Motion to approve the agenda: Mary McMillan

Approved by consensus.

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

April 25, 2023

SENIOR PASTOR REPORT

Rev. Barr reminded Council members of the process for completing nomination process for officers and filling board seats. The Council should vote in May on a slate of officers to present for approval at the Congregational meeting.

Rev. Barr informed the Council of plans to provide the congregation with an opportunity to discuss the impact of David Mateo's departure and how to move forward. The pastors have engaged a mediator, Indira Udofia, with a background in how organizations can recover from institutional harm, to conduct a workshop at the church on June 17.

The process for selecting an interim coordinator for La Mesa is near completion; candidate interviews have been scheduled for April 26, 2023.

Rev. Barr also discussed plans for his sabbatical from May 8 to August 14, including a sabbatical itinerary. In his absence, Rev. Mary Elizabeth Hanchey will take on the role of acting head of staff in his absence and handle all matters that will ordinarily come to the Senior Pastor including worship planning, staff supervision, pastoral care and conduct of funerals. Rev. Barr will not be using his church email account; Rev. Hanchey will be the point of contact with Rev. Barr during the sabbatical. Rev. Barr provided guidance on situations that he particularly wants to be informed of while on sabbatical:

- Threats to the church building such as fire, major flooding, traumatic events
- Major systems failure requiring immediate repairs or upgrades exceeding \$25,000
- Any personnel change
- Pastoral emergencies affecting the lives of staff members

Rev. Hanchey will take responsibility for Church Council, the Congregational meeting, Pastor Relations Committee, Deacons, BJOS and the Personnel Committee. Kati Ruark will support the Trustees and Personnel Committee.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Treasurer's Report: Doug Bruce

Revenue was down from the previous month; revenues are over budget by \$10,000.00. Expenses were over budget by approximately \$12,000.00 due to building maintenance costs. The church has a year-to-date surplus of \$9,300.00. In response to a question, Bruce indicated that unpledged giving is \$5,000.00 above the budgeted amount.

TRUSTEES

Vicki Gardner reported on several ongoing projects:

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

April 25, 2023

- The new security system has been installed and doors programmed. Staff has been trained on using the system, which includes phone apps. There is still discussion on how best to use the security cameras. Kati Ruark is working with people who have had keys to the church in the past; once they have all been trained on using the new system, the locks will be changed and keys will no longer be used.

- The Trustees requested fundraising approval to raise \$8,800-10,000.00 to replace the sanctuary soundboard. The soundboard has frequently dropped the audio for those accessing the worship service online. The Trustees propose to pay for the soundboard replacement immediately and use the fundraising appeal to repay those funds to the account.

Motion to approve the fundraising proposal – **Vicki Gardner**

Second: Toby McCoy

Vote: Unanimous approval

STATUS OF LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS

Robin Smith reported that the nominating process for officers resulted in fourteen people being identified as potential candidates for Moderator and Assistant Moderator. As chair of the Nominating Committee, **Smith** contacted each of the people nominated. After learning more about the interest and ability of the nominees to serve, the Nominating Committee identified candidates for Moderator and Assistant Moderator. Those recommendations will be presented to the Church Council in May. The Church Council will vote on the entire slate of officers and those names will be presented for approval at the Congregational Meeting in June.

Rev. Hanchey has taken the lead in working with board chairs to complete appointments to open board positions with a goal of having board members identified by May 31, 2023.

Robin Smith will follow up on a suggestion to document the nominating process for the benefit of future church leaders.

MODERATOR UPDATE

Moderator Mary McMillan asked board chairs to review the successes and challenges of the past year; review their board mission statements; and think about metrics for measuring success. Input for the UCCH annual report should be sent to Kati Ruark by May 21, 2023.

The annual report will be available for the Congregational Meeting on June 11. At that meeting, the congregation will vote on the Church Council recommendations for appointment of officers for the next church year.

BOARD UPDATES

Toby McCoy (Children): The board is planning for the end of the Sunday School year; teacher recognition; and summer Compassion Camp. The board is also looking toward Anitra Grove's transition to be director of the UCCH preschool.

Midge Coward (Deacons): Lenten prayer groups went and there was also very good attendance at the Taize services. Given the interest in Taize, the Deacons will consider holding those services on a quarterly basis throughout the church year.

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

April 25, 2023

The Deacons will also be viewing a video on how to help wheelchair bound people, which has been a concern discussed by Church Council. Council members discussed several ways to better accommodate people in wheelchairs, including the possibility of removing chairs in the back of the sanctuary to make room for wheelchairs.

Nubia Rivero Bello asked whether the Deacons are responsible for providing offering baskets and the communion bread and juice for La Mesa. She noted that sometimes La Mesa has not had baskets for the offering. **Mary McMillan** indicated that she now has a key to the church office and can be a backup if needed to access the office.

Bill Chicurel (Fellowship): The Fellowship Board continues to be very understaffed. There was discussion about how to use more volunteers from the congregation who aren't members of the Board.

Susan Denault (MES): To encourage participation on church boards, MES will put together some "Why I Serve" videos similar to the "Why I Give" videos used during the stewardship drive. Fourteen adults attended the new members/UCCH 101 lunch. Many found UCCH through the website, emphasizing the need to modernize the website.

Christine Harding (Youth/Young Adults): The Youth program is going very well. Confirmation Sunday will be May 7.

Closing Prayer: **Mary Elizabeth Hanchey**

Respectfully submitted: **Robin Smith, Clerk**