

# CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

August 22, 2023

## **PRESENT**

Toby McCoy, Moderator  
Linda Soto, Asst. Moderator  
Doug Bruce, Treasurer  
Robin Smith, Clerk  
Cindy Johnson, Adult Education  
Barb Hall, Children's Ministry  
Midge Coward, Deacons  
Jody Forehand, Fellowship  
Jill McArdle, Justice, Outreach and Service  
Susan Denault, Membership, Engagement and Stewardship  
Vicki Gardner, Trustees  
Gaylen Brubaker, Youth and Young Adults  
Senior Pastor Cameron Barr

## **Not Attending**

Cole Nicholson  
Oscar Cervantes  
Charlotte Hallquist  
Hugo Guttierrez

## **Others Attending**

Pastor Mary Elizabeth Hanchey  
Jenny Anderson  
Peter Schay, Trustees

**INTERPRETATION SERVICES:** Murtado Language Solutions

**CALL TO ORDER:** Moderator Toby McCoy called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION:** Pastor Barr

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion to approve the minutes of the May 2023 Council meeting: Midge Coward**

**Second: Cindy Johnson**

**Vote: Unanimous approval**

**Motion to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2023 Congregational Meeting: Vicki Gardner**

**Second: Gaylen Brubaker**

**Vote: Unanimous approval**

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### APPROVAL OF BOARDS

**Jill McCardle** updated the Council on BJOS membership. Jack Allen and Oscar Garcia have agreed to serve on BJOS and Jane Landreth has asked to resign from the board. **Jody Forehand** indicated that Darliz Fonseca has agreed to serve on the Fellowship Board. Two additional people have volunteered to serve on boards once they become members of the church in September. Upon becoming church members, Ashley Arthur will serve on the Board of Deacons and Mark McKee will join BJOS.

**Motion: Vicki Gardner moved to approve the slate of board members presented to the Council as updated by the board chairs in the meeting.**

**Second: Gaylen Brubaker**

**Vote: Unanimous approval**

### APPROVAL OF CHURCH COUNCIL BUDGET

**Moderator McCoy** introduced discussion of the Church Council's 2024 budget. Proposed changes in the Council budget would restore support for Conference delegates (\$250.00) and increase the budgeted Contingency Fund from \$2,000.00 to \$2,500.00 for a total increase in the Council budget of \$750.00.

In discussion, **Jody Forehand** asked about the possibility of requesting translation services for board meetings. **Pastor Barr** indicated that individual boards can propose funding for translation services in their budget submission. He suggested describing the need for those services in the narrative budget. Pastor Barr also noted that if boards receive funding for translation, requests for translation services should be coordinated through Katie Ruark.

**Motion to approve Council budget: Jody Forehand**

**Second: Vicki Gardner**

**Vote: Unanimous approval**

### PASTORS' REPORT

**Pastor Barr** briefly described his experiences on sabbatical. **Pastor Hanchey** reported that the new program year has been planned and there is a calendar of events.

### MODERATOR'S REPORT

**Moderator McCoy** described some areas of focus in the coming year: supporting La Mesa; communicating about UCCH to the broader community (through the website, social media, and investment in the youth program); and updating the church membership list and directory.

**Moderator McCoy** recognized **Linda Soto** for a report on La Mesa. She mentioned plans for several joint worship services as well as La Mesa dinners in the fall. She also asked for information on plans for the October church retreat in Blowing Rock to share with La Mesa.

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**Moderator McCoy** informed the Council that church leaders met with representatives of the Southern Conference of the UCC earlier on August 22 to receive an update on the fitness review of David Mateo. In the meeting, the Conference representatives reported that David Mateo had voluntarily given up his Ordained Ministerial Standing in the United Church of Christ. Relinquishment of ministerial standing ended the Conference fitness review; as a result, the review committee will not issue any findings based on its investigation. Having given up his Ordained Ministerial Standing, David Mateo will not be able to serve as a UCC minister in the future. **Moderator McCoy** and **Pastor Barr** indicated that UCCH leaders also discussed with Conference representatives care for those harmed by Mateo's actions. The Conference can provide resources for situational support.

Council members discussed how best to share this information with the entire congregation and the possibility of inviting a Conference representative to explain the outcome of the fitness review and other support the Conference can provide. There was a desire among Council members to communicate the information to the entire congregation as soon as possible. **Jodie Forehand** recommended a review of church policies to ensure this kind of situation doesn't happen again at UCCH and suggested Council should consider how to prevent this occurring in another congregation.

**Moderator McCoy** indicated that he and the pastors will talk further about a plan for communicating the information to the congregation and other follow up steps.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

**Doug Bruce** reported that July was a good month financially. Year-to-date revenues are higher than budgeted by approximately \$12,000.00. (Revenue of \$521,000 as compared to budgeted revenue of \$508,000.00.) Expenditures have exceeded budget by \$13,000.00 due to building maintenance needs, somewhat higher utilities, printing costs and accounting fees. UCCH has a year-to-date budget deficit of approximately \$26,000.00.

### BOARD UPDATES

**Cindy Johnson (Adult Education):** Fall programs have been planned; the Sunday adult forum will focus on death and end of life. Johnson noted that the board needs more tech help with Zoom and other meeting technology.

**Barb Hall (Children):** The Board has clarified that in her combined role as director of UCCH Preschool Director and Minister to Children, Anitra Grove will report to Senior Pastor Barr. Sunday School will continue to be during the 11:00 hour this year and in the early fall will overlap with children's choir.

**Midge Coward (Deacons):** Taize services have been scheduled for the fall and for Lent.

**Jody Forehand (Fellowship):** The Fellowship Board wants to collaborate with La Mesa and the boards in providing fellowship opportunities associated with planned church events and invited board chairs to let her know of events the Fellowship Board can partner on.

**Jill McCardle (BJOS):** BJOS is reviewing its budget commitments with the intent to focus BJOS efforts in areas where there is strong interest within the church.

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**Susan Denault (MES):** The board needs additional volunteers to serve as greeters on Sunday morning,

**Gaylen Brubaker (Youth/Young Adults):** Jenny Schultz Thomas, who is serving as interim Minister to Youth and Young Adults, is helping the board develop a plan for filling the position on a permanent basis.

**Jenny Anderson (Music Director):** The music program is staffing both the Festival Service and the La Mesa Service. The church only received one applicant in response to advertisement of the music leader position for La Mesa and did not make an offer to that person. As a result, she will readvertise and expand outreach for efforts to fill that position.

**Closing Prayer: Mary Elizabeth Hanchey**

**Respectfully submitted: Robin Smith, Clerk**