

# Flossmoor Community Church

## Meeting Minutes from the February 23, 2021 Governing Board Meeting

### **Call to Order**

The meeting, which was conducted over Zoom, was called to order at 19:30.

### **Attendees**

The following FCC Governing Board (GB, Board) members were present: Anna Carvalho, Rebecca Courington, Sharon Dobben, Susan Durkin, Josh Grenard, Kenny Maxie, Bob Norby, Vanessa Richardson, Jackie Riffice, Terese Thrall, Donica Van Voorhees

The following FCC Staff Members were present: Jamie Ford, Betsy Hanzelin, Julie Van Til

FCC Foundation President, Lois Glasgow, was present for the meeting.

### **Opening Prayer**

The opening prayer was shared by Donica Van Voorhees.

### **Devotional**

Pastor Julie Van Til led the Devotional portion of this meeting.

She began by asking two questions. The first of these was, "In what way has it been good to have been deprived of the normalcy of life? The second question asked was, "What gift has our deprivation given us?"

These two questions were asked in preparation for the following set of questions:

- What are you actually valuing about this pandemic experience?
- What has been the most important about this past year?
- What has become meaningful that you don't want to lose?
- What do you not miss? What are you glad to have let go?
- What wasn't working anyway?
- What do you think is worth resurrecting?
- Could you wear new skin?
- Who do we think we are now?
- Who is God calling us to be?

The questions, which were asked in the context of Flossmoor Community Church, will be emailed to the GB members. Julie asked us to keep them in mind for the next Governing Board meeting.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Kenny asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the January 19, 2021 GB meeting. No corrections were offered. Anna called for a motion to approve these minutes. The GB granted its unanimous approval.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Bob Norby began by stating that FCC has received more pledge collections in January of 2021 than it did in January of 2020. He also informed the Board that the Church currently has approximately \$200,000.00 in unrestricted cash and that our second PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) loan has been approved.

### **Pastor's Report**

Pastor Julie displayed a document during the meeting that listed several of FCC's activities and events over the past 11 months. The list included happenings such as a search for a new pastor, the shutdown of the Church due to the pandemic, the setup of Zoom for online worship, the Anti-Racism series, the Advent & Christmas seasons, the adoption of the Narrative Lectionary, and many others. She asked Betsy and Jamie if anything else should be included in the list. Betsy mentioned the distribution of ashes which occurred "last week" (the week ending 02/21/2021). Pastor Julie stated that "If we're feeling tired, it's because we've had a lot going on." She stated that she feels fortunate to be a part of FCC and she expressed her gratitude for her staff and the members of Flossmoor Community Church.

Governing Board responses to the Pastor's report included the appreciation of how FCC has remained connected through the pandemic and praise of the Church's staff for making worship possible during these trying times.

### **Stewardship Report**

Bob Norby presented the Stewardship report in Kris McManus's absence. He stated that our current pledge commitments are \$529,222.00 and that this number is near the amount budgeted for the year. He informed the GB that 60 out of the current 130 pledging units have increased the amounts of their pledges.

There are 11 new pledgers this year. Bob believes that more pledgers are possible. He also believes that the possibility exists that we may exceed this year's budgeted number for pledges.

The Stewardship committee is following up with about a dozen people who normally make pledges.

### **Faith in Action Report**

Jackie Riffice presented the Faith in Action report. She requested approval from the Board for the distribution of our Easter offerings to two local agencies. The agencies are Restoration Ministries in Harvey and the South Suburban Family Shelter. Anna's moved for this request to be approved by the GB. It was done so unanimously.

Jackie also requested approval from the Governing Board regarding the adoption of a document titled, *The Purpose and Intent of the Board Faith in Action (FIA)*. The document was created to provide a clear understanding of the purpose of this committee. It will also provide a foundation for future members of the FIA committee. Bob asked if Faith in Action has by-laws that may address the role of this document? Betsy stated that the by-laws of FIA and other committees should be updated. Faith in Action's by-laws have not been updated since 1996.

### **New Business**

Pastor Julie asked how can we make the community aware that the services of Flossmoor Community Church are available on Zoom? One suggestion is to use advertising space in the Balagio restaurant in Homewood. Input from church members on this suggestion has been solicited.

Pastor Julie and the FCC staff are looking for methods to enact the Church's Holy Week traditions. It is possible that some services will be combined and the pacing of these and/or other services will be reduced.

### **Old Business**

Anna discussed the survey results from the FCC "Talks About Race" series. There was significant participation in the talks about race, and the results of the survey were generally positive. There was one disgruntled comment on 1 out of the 45 surveys returned. One Board member inquired about the negative comment. The comment

suggested that, “the opinion of a white man doesn’t matter.” The results of the survey will be made public after they are organized.

Anna also provided an update on FCC’s involvement with Harvey. She stated that Jay Readey has found a property and is gathering its down payment. The home’s plans for its reconstruction are being drawn. Anna stated that the potential for an additional four or five projects exists.

Anna solicited feedback from the Board on the suggested books on Anti-Racism (i.e. *White Fragility & How to be an Anti-Racist*). She asked the question, “How should the content of these books be processed?”

Terese, who has read *White Fragility*, asked if there are questions in either book that could be used for discussion.

Anna ended this discussion by asking two questions:

1. What (anti-racism) journey are we on as a church?
2. How does the content of the proposed books align with this journey?

### **Closing Prayer**

The closing prayer was shared by Bob Norby.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 20:46.

Respectfully Submitted by Felton Maxie, Governing Board Secretary