**Report of the Nominating Committee**

**To the Governing Board**

**Feb. 28, 2017**

Highlights

* All boards and committees have been contacted by a member of the Nominating Committee to request a description of the work of the board/committee as well as suggestions for potential new board/committee members
* We plan to meet on March 5th to prepare a list of potential new board/committee members

Hopes

* We have not heard back from all of the chairs. We need this feedback from the chairs in order to determine the best list of candidates for the 2018-2020 slate. We **HOPE** to receive this information as quickly as possible in order to give FCC the strongest possible support system.

FILE: February 2017 Report of the Nominating Committee to the Governing Board

**Report of the Refugee Resettlement Project**

**To the Governing Board**

**Feb. 28, 2017**

**Highlights**

* Meeting held in Jan. with 6 people attending
* Update on status of family. Adjusting well; two children in school, Mom and Dad in English lessons, utilizing train and buses to get to shopping and medical care, and receiving financial aid for food.
* Discussed ideas and topics to address to help in their assimilation, ie. US currency, budgeting, etc. Identified potential needs to assess, ie. Spring clothing for the children.
* Discussed the difficulty with communication even utilizing Google Translate for texting and speaking in person. Minimal response from Refugee One staff as well.
* Will identify a group of folks interested in visiting with the understanding that the family does not respond and may not be around when we get there. Goal would be to have others comfortable visiting and the family comfortable with them as well.
* Discussed the idea of holding a community forum with local spiritual leaders to discuss religious tolerance as a follow up to the class on Muslim religion.
* Discussed the idea of developing a library of information regarding refugee issues to be posted on the website for education of congregation and any other interested parties.
* Decided we do not feel we should ask to Co-Sponsor another family at this time. We would rather focus and extend our efforts on the Mahbani family to ensure their success.

Submitted by Denise Morris

**Report of the Board of Outreach Ministries**

**To the Governing Board**

**February 28, 2017**

**Highlights**

* Our showing of the Netflix film, “16th”, on 2/12, was well attended. Approximately 85 people were in attendance. The film, on mass incarceration, was shown in the sanctuary.

**Hopes**

* BOM is reviewing candidates for outreach grants for FY’17.
* A food drive to benefit Respond Now is planned for May.

**Action Items**

None

**Report of the Board of Christian Education**

**To Governing Board**

**February 28, 2017**

**Preschool**

* We will be holding our 2nd dine out event this Tuesday February 21st at Portillo’s in Homewood from 5-8pm. 20% of proceeds will come back to the preschool.
* Family Fun event will be held this Saturday February 25th from 10-11:30am, we will be having yoga, music, art, and an animal show. Admission is free and we are excited about having a few new events this year.
* Butter Braid fundraiser will begin in March and all orders will be delivered in time for Easter weekend. This is out largest fundraiser and we will be advertising in faith family matters and the Narthex.
* We will have a 3rd and final dine out in April and are looking for a local restaurant that will be willing to help us by giving back 20%.
* Playground cleanup date has been changed to earlier to hopefully avoid opening

**Children’s Ministries**

The community outreach Blizzard Blast event was a success! We had 54 children that attended and over 60 canned goods collected for Jones Memorial Center. We are looking forward to our new Lent program in which we will be having all children in the Sanctuary for the entirety of worship instead of going to W.O.W. We will be incorporating more interactive options for children to be a more intentional part of the worship during the Lenten season. We are opening the “Holy Playground” which is space in the front of the Sanctuary where children can engage in quiet activities that will build upon each other weekly to allow better understanding of our Rise Up Lent message.

**Youth Ministries**

What we’ve been up to:

·         Disciples World Religions Retreat & Soph’s Sex Retreat.

    We picked different weekends this year which allowed each group to have their own space in the church, plus I was able to participate in both.  Our Disciples really enjoyed visiting all the other houses of worship, and we were happy to team up with the Confirmation for Adults class on our visits to the Mosque & the Hindu Temple.

·         Tribes raised $691.65 for Respond Now through Souper Bowl of Caring on Feb. 5th

·         Youth Work Trip team raised $918.60 to help our youth get to DC in June.

What we have coming up:

·         Groups are going well.  We’re on a regular Sunday schedule from now until March 19th.

·         The Youth Work Trip team will be fundraising for their trip throughout March.  Attached in the article going on the Narthex the details our fundraising plan.

·         Big Room March 19th

That should cover what we’ve been up to. Please let me know if you have any questions.

**Adult Education**

The One-Book-One-Church discussion of *Waking Up White*by Debby Irving is sparking many discussions and helping newer and older members of the congregation get to know each other. The first meeting was scheduled in the Family Room as 40 had signed up for the discussion and several had indicated that they could not attend the first session. When 51 participants arrived, the room was crowded and we constantly added more chairs then decided to move the subsequent classes to Fellowship Hall. The afternoon session only had one participant but the conversation was still good. The second week had 51 participants with several new people attending. The afternoon session had five participants. The February 19 session had 17 participants as several who'd come previously were away for the President's Day weekend. We have had over seventy different people participate and have heard that many more are reading the book.

To facilitate diverse groups we had nine numbered tables and handed out numbers as people entered the room. This meant that spouses sat at different tables and that we had a random mix of age, gender, race, and ethnicity at each table. We received many positive comments about the random seating and the choice of the book.  We will distribute a survey at the end of the program asking for feedback and ideas about what to do next. We are also working with the Race Talk on Tap planners to see how the discussions can continue. We also hope this is a good lead in for the diversity programs in March.

Some of the comments we've heard:

"I can't believe what I didn't know."   
"I love getting to talk to people I didn't know." (I heard this twice from newer members and also from older members who liked meeting younger people.)

"I loved talking with people on a deeper level than we do at coffee."

"Having coffee downstairs is great, I'll come earlier next time to talk."

"It was like being in two sessions. I got to talk with my husband for a long time last week as we shared what we'd both learned."

"This is a great way to bridge the liberal/conservative gap. I could tell who probably had which beliefs at my table yet we were able to have a good conversation without animosity."

and repeatedly - "I'm so glad our church is doing this. This is important."

**Report of the Diaconate Board**

**To the Governing Board**

**Feb. 28, 2017**

Highlights:

* In response to the announcements from the pulpit, in the bulletin and in the Narthex, the Diaconate has added 10 additional names to volunteers to serve at Memorial Services. Many thanks to Pastor Fred and to Brooke for assisting in the getting word out.
* The Board worked on revising the description of the duties of the Diaconate Board so that this more accurate description could be included in the “letters of call” that will be send to prospective candidates to serve on the Diaconate.
* The Board discussed the five vacancies that it will be necessary to fill on the Diaconate. Because of a resignation the Diaconate has been down one

member this year. The Diaconate is a service board, and it is our hope

that all of these vacancies can be filled for the upcoming church year.

Hopes:

* The Board prays that all 5 vacancies on the Diaconate will be filled by

individuals willing to serve the needs of our congregation.

Action Items:

The Diaconate has no proposals for Governing Board approval at this time.

**Report of the Stewardship Committee**

**To the Governing Board**

**February 28, 2017**

**Highlights**

Stewardship had a busy February, meeting twice to plan both our spring campaign and a wills emphasis event for May.

--Our Spring campaign is planned for approximately April 23 to May 7, 2017.  We are consulting and strategizing to consider a simpler campaign now, and a more extensive campaign in the Fall.

--On May 7, with a backup of May 1, 2017 we plan a dinner with a speaker  discussing how to include FCC in estate planning.

We want to thank Betsy and Judy and the Finance Committee e for working towards making electronic giving more possible. This is an exciting development that will help us all.

**Hopes**

For this year to maintain a stable budget and finances for FCC while making changes to set up more growth in 2018.

**Report of the Properties Committee**

**To the Governing Board**

**February 28, 2017**

Six members of our Committee met January 25th and reviewed the Reserve Advisor Report received just before Christmas.  We agreed on a list of projects to be presented to Governing Board.

We talked about the Community House foyer:   new coat racks, table storage, bathrooms and painting.

Submitted by Sue Detrick

**Report of the Board of Lay Ministries**

**To the Governing Board**

**February 28, 2017**

**Accomplished**

**Congregational Survey**

* **102 people completed our “Congregational Connections Survey” during the month of January.**
* The input and feedback we received was tremendous, and while it will take us some time to sort through and organize responses, there were five key themes that emerged. Respondents are seeking:

1. Small group connection opportunities,
2. Keep our momentum going dealing with racism and other social justice issues,
3. More local outreach opportunities with direct impact,
4. Progressive Bible studies, helping us deal with current political and social issues, and
5. Easy ways to invite the Community to our events.

**Membership Development**

* **3 new members are joining the church on February 26th** – David Lindstrom, Bill McCormick and Liz Molina – and shepherds have been recruited to help welcome and mentor them.
* **5 additional folks are considering attending the April 23rd Inquirers’ meeting**, as they had conflicts and could not attend on February 12th.
* **Thomas Photography will be at the church on Sunday, February 26th taking spontaneous photos** to better capture the life of our church and the people of our church. Photos will be used on our website and social media in coming months to better reflect our church spirit and personality.
* **Members of the Board of Lay Ministries attended the 1/23 Race Talk on Tap and 2/15 Believe events to discuss race, inclusion and what it means to live love in our communities** – to inform future efforts to engage more with the community and invite people to Flossmoor Community Church.

**Next Steps:**

* **Connect & Involve – Survey Follow-up:**
  + Complete process for getting the congregation’s interests and ideas out to Nominating, Boards, Committees and program leads in March for follow-up.
  + Updating the church database and membership directory with updated contact information from surveys.
  + Create an individual interest profile, for each survey respondent, for the church to have on file.
* **Membership Development:**
  + A graphic symbol was selected for a “Share What You Love” about FCC, and will be introduced to church members in March as a visual reminder to invite friends and neighbors to FCC programs that you love.
  + Board will work with staff to select one priority FCC program or event each month, to submit as editorial content for potential coverage in free community channels including the Village e-newsletter, Facebook page and quarterly printed newsletter.

**Action Items/Motions – None**

Submitted by Dana Dolan

**Report of the Board of Congregational Life**

**To the Governing Board**

**February 28, 2017**

**Highlights**

The Board of Congregational Life hosted a potluck during the mid-annual meeting on 1/29/17.

They are also hosting the 90th anniversary celebration on 2/24/17, anticipating over 150 people!

Details to follow.

**NO REPORT**

I did not receive any reports from the following boards/committees:

Personnel

Finance

Worship & Arts