**Flossmoor Community Church**

**Governing Board Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, January 23 7 pm

FCC Family Room

“Now to each one the manifestation of the spirit is given

for the common good” 1 Corinthians 12:7

|  |
| --- |
|  |

*Inspired by the Risen Christ*

*We*

|  |
| --- |
|  |

*Seek – Connect - Serve*

**Members Attending**: Stephanie Byrd, Dana Dolan, Linda Gilley, Karen Hoag, Esther Jenkins, Betty Norby, Chris Riedel, Deb Robertson, Rosanne Schutz, Shari Sweeney, Nils Wickstrom

**Members Excused:** Sue Detrick, Scott Kappmeyer, Phyliss Royster, Tim Sullivan

**Staff Present:** Pastor Fred, Betsy Hanzelin, Jenny Sykes

OPENING PRAYER (Linda)

JOYS & CONCERNS were shared by the group

DEVOTION (Fred) Chapter 3 “Worship” in *The Welcoming Congregation*

The group discussed question 5: How can your worship be a participation in God’s own hospitality? What can you do on Sunday mornings to widen the circle of God’s inclusive love? The focus of discussion was on such items as the bulletin, comment cards, welcome cards, the red sign-in book, “the peace,” facing each other at the end of service, nametags.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from December 5, 2017, were approved as submitted.

TREASURER’S REPORT (Chris)

* Budget Update from Finance Committee: FCC had a good December and balanced the budget through managing expenses in 2017. Projections for 2018: in order to balance lower pledge totals, a number of revenue categories have been increased to better use our assets and some expenses have been lowered as well.
* **Action Item:**  2018 Budget approval: **Approved** as presented.

PASTOR’S REPORT (Fred): It was a wonderful Advent season. The change in timing of Christmas Eve services was effective.

NEW BUSINESS

* Membership Update (Dana, Betsy): 552 members including youth (468 w/o youth). 16 new members; 21 inactive who moved.
* Marketing Ad-hoc Committee (Shari): Betsy and Rosanne (Focus Elder) will be working together, along with Chris Dolan, on this ad-hoc committee.
* Mid-year Congregational Meeting (Shari): There will be a video about the strategic plan and a financial presentation.

OLD BUSINESS

* Stewardship Update (Fred for Scott): For 2018, FCC has 164 pledges totaling $600,000+. Stewardship is inaugurating “moments of good news” in worship.
* Community House Committee Update (Dana): Blizzard Blast is coming up in February; additional monthly events are planned through July. In addition, a number of adult education programs are planned, starting with Laurens Grant presenting her film *Stay Woke* in February.
* PADS New Year’s Eve – Thank You!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Mid-Year Congregational Meeting - Sunday, 1/28/18
* Next GB meeting - Tuesday, 2/27/18

CLOSING PRAYER (Stephanie)

ADJOURN 9:07 PM

**

**Report of the Board of Outreach Ministries**

**To the Governing Board**

**Highlights**

On February 18, Outreach hosted a discussion of the Black Lives Matters Movement, featuring the documentary, *Stay Woke: The Black Lives Matters Movement*, and a discussion by the film’s L.A.-based producer and director, Laurens Grant, and Jenn Jackson, a local activist and graduate student at UC. The program was well attended (about 105 people) and well received. We estimate that at least half of the audience were not church members.

**Hopes**

On March 11, Outreach will sponsor an Adult Ed presentation on the unintended negative side effects of helping. Based on the book, Toxic *Charity*: *How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help (and How to Reverse it*), the speaker will be Anna Carvalho, former chair of Outreach and Kerry Hill, Community Education Manager at South Suburban Family Shelter (SSFS). Kerry will talk about how survivors of domestic violence are helped while also empowered.

Outreach will use one of the church bulletin boards to highlight the work of agencies that we give monies to. Rex Brown is working on this.

Submitted by Esther Jenkins, Chair

**Report of the Nominating Committee**

**to the Governing Board**

**Highlights**

All boards and committees should 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 7th and 8th to prepare a list of potential new board/committee members

**Hopes**

We need feedback from the current chairs to determine the best list of candidates for the 2019-2021 slate. We hopeto receive this information as quickly as possible to give FCC the strongest possible support system.

Submitted by Karen Hoag, Chair

**Report of the Board of Congregational Life**

**To the Governing Board**

**Highlights**

Discussed the potluck following the Congregational Meeting in January.  Going forward, we will not have a potluck related to Congregational Meetings for several reasons.  (Not enough help following meeting, lack of younger families attending meeting/potluck, longer meetings to be expected as financial matters are discussed.)   Pastor Fred agrees to the change, and we will plan to have a Potluck for all ages in February or March each year.

Upcoming Fellowship Events:

Men’s Beer Exchange – Friday March 9 (organized by WLC Committee, with increased publicity by BCL and church staff)

Women, Wine & Chocolate – Friday, March 16 from 7 – 9 pm

End of Year Potluck – Sunday, May 6 at noon

Submitted by Betsy Hanzelin, Staff support

**Report of the Board of Christian Education**

**To the Governing Board**

**Children’s Ministries – Katelyn Keller, Director**

* Third grade Bible class is wrapping up and 4 children will be receiving their bibles during service on 3/4
* 5th and 6th graders cooked and served dinner to our PADS guests on 2/18
* Youth will be teaching some of the Sunday School classes 2/25-3/11
* New 2018 budget proposal created
* Meeting soon to discuss VBS and summer programming

**Weekday Preschool - Marji O’Leary, Director**

* Enrollment is at 120. The Parent/Toddler class that meets Thursday mornings in Fellowship Hall has been divided into two sections due to increased demand and there were a couple of new enrollees for second semester.
* Gail Williams, our Licensing Rep made her “pop” visit on Wednesday, February 7. The agency has instituted a shortened inspection form for those centers with minimal or no past violations which we qualified to use. I discussed with Ms. Williams the DCFS requirement regarding vaccinations for early childhood staff. She felt the way some of the doctors had filled out the adult medical form regarding vaccinations was insufficient. I will work with those staff and rectify the files. Two staff need updated medicals – both have upcoming appointments.
* Enrollment for the Winter/Spring Enrichments finished up January 12. Lights, Camera, Action; Weekday Explorers and Weekday Scientists are full. We added a second teacher to Lights, Camera, Action to open up some more spots. There are some spots available in Tumble Bears.
* Lunch Breaks continue with a Monday & Friday date offered this month.
* Marji will be attending the NINPA (Northern Illinois Nature Preschool Association) professional development meeting February 22 where the topic will be the purpose and process of early childhood assessments. Planning has begun for WOW (World of Wonder) International Nature-based Early Learning Conference to be held August 1 – 4 at Brookfield Zoo that NINPA is co-sponsoring.
* The Teachers’ Meeting was held Thursday, February 1. Marji presented on Nurturing a Growth Mindset in preschoolers.
* The preschool Family Fun Event will be held Saturday, February 24 in the Promised Land. We have Nature’s Creatures animal show, children’s music, children’s yoga and a group craft scheduled. Art 4 Soul will also be there to make handprint tiles for those that would like. (To either add to the tile wall in the preschool entrance or to take home).
* Classrooms held the annual Teddy Bear Picnics in the preschool library the week of the 22nd. Children enjoyed bringing in a teddy bear or other stuffed animal for a special treat, songs and stories in the library.
* Erin Keigher continues to visit the 2 and 3-year-old classrooms each week, (It is an every other week schedule for the children), for a Language & Literacy circle time. The children look forward to her visits and she is a wonderful resource for the teachers in identifying speech and language issues.
* Dallas continues with the Project 50 program and meets with 4/5-year-old classes about once a month.
* Registration materials will go out March 8 & 9 to current families and FCC church families. Registrations for inquiries will be sent in mid-March.

**Youth Ministries – Allison Billings, Director**

* Sophs’ (10th grade) Sex retreat was Jan 27-29.
* Disciples (9th grade) World Religions retreat was Feb 2-4
* Tribes (7th & 8th grade) raised $700 through the national campaign Souper Bowl of Caring on Super Bowl Sunday (2/4).  All funds were donated to Respond Now in Chicago Heights.
* Aside from planning, our Leadership Team has been going through a 5-week study based on Bob Goff’s book *Love Does*.

What we’re gearing up for:

* Sophs’ (10th grade) will be teaching Sunday School 2/25, 3/4, & 3/11.   Their group will also be serving PADS on Sunday 2/25.
* Tribes (7th & 8th grade) will have a game/fun night on Friday 3/2 in Fellowship Hall.
* All are invited to the Beauty Suit event on Sunday March 4th, specifically youth mothers & daughters.
* Big Room is Sunday March 18th.  I’ve invited Peer Jury to come and run our 90-minute session talking about restorative justice and showing our youth some of the exercises they use routinely on peer jury.
* I am working on assembling a parent & youth panel to meet a couple of times before the end of the program year to discuss the youth program overall.  I am hoping for feedback, but also to talk about if our current program meets the needs of our families and youth.

**Adult Education - Trina Hayes, Chair**

Our two February programs were well attended.

No Divisions Among You: A Consideration of Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians led by Pastor Fred Lyons

Continued study of John Pavlovitz' *A Bigger Table: Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community*led by Trina Hayes

The Board of Outreach program featuring a showing of the documentary *Stay Woke* with Director Laurens Grant attracted about 100 people from FCC and the community.

We are looking ahead to hosting Lauren Shields, an author and H-F grad who will share insights from her forthcoming book, *The Beauty Suit*on Sunday, March 4 from 1 - 3 p.m. Lauren's modesty experiment looks at religious modesty and feminism in the three Abrahamic traditions. We will also have a lunch with the author at noon that day for those wishing to stay at church for the program.

March features a continuation of the discussion of the book *A Bigger Table* plus the following offerings:

Bible Study: God Wants Me to Do What? Unlikely People Chosen to Do Unlikely Things

Sundays, March 4, 11, 18, and 25 at 11 am in the Chapel

Led by Rebecca and Phil Courington

“God Wants Me to Do What?” features individuals who did extraordinary things that they and others might not have foreseen for them. On these four Sundays in March, we will look at the Gospels and at several individual characters the New Testament presents.

March 4: John the Baptist

March 11:  Luke (Jesus seeks out the “other”)

March 18: Mark (It’s easy to fail at Discipleship)

March 25: Timothy (The torch is passed to someone very young)

On March 18, the Board of Outreach will present the following program:

When does helping actually hurt? How can we tell the difference? Anna Carvalho, past chair of the Board of Outreach, will discuss these and other key points raised by Robert Lupton in his book *Toxic Charity*, along what some agencies do to combat this risk. Anna will be joined by Kerry Hill, Community Education Manager for South Suburban Family Shelter (SSFS), a local domestic violence program, who will talk about how that program helps and empowers survivors of abuse.

Submitted by Linda Gilley, Chair

**Report of the Focus Elder/Women Helping Women**

**To the Governing Board**

**Hopes**

I hope to hold monthly meetings from 11am to noon. Dates to be decided.

**Highlights**

Since there has been so much media coverage in regard to men taking advantage of women in the workplace/relationships, we would like to provide a safe space for any interested woman to attend these meetings and know that there is a group of women to help support any concerns or issues she may have.

Areas of interest: CPA, Lawyer, Financial Planner – I could obtain Trina’s notes for further explanation.

Submitted by Rosanne Schutz, Focus Elder

**Report of the Board of Lay Ministries**

**To the Governing Board**

**Highlights**

* On Sunday February 11th we welcomed four new members during worship: Angela Butler, Jeff and Jessica Groen and Holly Fingerlee!
* The Board served as hosts at the Ash Wednesday service.
* A Coffee & Connections event for *newer* members (those who have joined in last two years) is scheduled for Sunday, March 18th from 11-12 in the church parlor.
* A second round of “We Miss You Postcards” were sent with handwritten messages from Board members, and we received a positive response from a recipient who was really touched!

**Hopes**

* Our next New Member Information session is April 15th from 11-1 pm
* A new member dessert party will be hosted by the Board in June.
* We will be planning a message and approach, for a few members of the Board to call those who have not attended worship for 4 months or more.

Submitted by Dana Dolan, Chair

**Report of the Diaconate Board**

**To the Governing Board**

**Highlights**

* Pastor Fred conducted visitation Preparation/Education on February 3, 2018. Next steps may include partnering with Stephen Ministers. Pastor Fred is coordinating this initiative. Jeanne Deaver-Higgins joined Laurel Hamilton and others to provide visitation support as requested by Pastor Fred.  Materials will be shared with Board members who were unable to attend.
* We plan to continue the bi-monthly meeting schedule for 2018. Meeting dates are as follows: March 25, May 20, July22, September 30 and November 25, 2018

**Hopes**

* Develop and implement plans to expand Visitation Ministries.
* Home Emergency Information presentation is on hold.

Submitted by Phyllis Royster, Chair

**Board of Worship & Arts**

**Report to the Governing Board**

**Highlights and hopes**

* Christmas services changes were well received. We want to keep the Lessons and Carols at 8:00 and 10:00 going forward. Will do a survey to find best time for instant Nativity service.
* We are working on a needs analysis for the media systems in church including sound, television screens, monitors, speakers and the drop-down screen.

Submitted by Stephanie Poole-Byrd, Chair

**“No Report”, but meeting in March**

Properties Committee, Submitted by Jennifer Sykes, Staff support

Personnel Committee, Submitted by Jennifer Sykes, Staff support