

FirstCoast Metropolitan Community Church
BOARD MEETING MINUTES – Monday, September 20, 2021 (recorded)
Current Board: Jackie Gascho, Julie Russell, Sandy Speck, Mari Gilman

BOARD PRESENT: Jackie Gascho, Interim Lay Pastor, Julie Russell, Vice Moderator, Mari Gilman, Treasurer, Sandy Speck, Clerk

BOARD ABSENT: none

OTHERS PRESENT: Hazel S, Lydia W, Carol N & Shirley V

Active Members: 48

TASK ITEMS

The meeting began at 6:02 PM

Pastor Jackie opened with prayer.

Review of the agenda.

1 Item was added as new business:

#4 St Johns Ecumenical Ministries Request (Jackie)

MOTION to Accept Agenda with the additional item Sandy/Mari, Motion Passed

CONSENT AGENDA REPORTS

CLERK'S REPORT

- Minutes from August 16, 2021, BOD meeting. (Mari)

MOTION to accept the August minutes with the above changes Mari/ Julie, Motion Passed

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT (Mari)

- Reviewed weekly attendance numbers.
 - August weekly average \$550
 - \$813 weekly YTD average (\$769 weekly Budget)
- Reviewed the Income & Expenses for August 2021
- August Taxes were paid to the IRS on 9/13 via online.
- August Assessment Report was completed and mailed to MCC on 9/9 with the check.
- Mari and Mo Kelly met twice to review the financial audit for 2019 and 2020. Mo will be submitting her report to the BOD in the near future.
- Mari will have the draft of the 2022 proposed budget for review.
- Mari asked the BOD to consider the following proposal to discuss in October. Proposal: Close out the Building Fund account and move the funds into the Designated Funds account identified as such. This would reduce the number of accounts that needed to be reconciled and updated annually for signatures.

MOTION to accept the Treasurer's reports Mari/Julie, Motion Passed

MINISTRY REPORTS AS NEEDED:

Service Ministry: Lydia shared that she continues to distribute Blessing Bags whenever the opportunity arrives, 6 in the past 3 weeks. Lydia could use some assistance with 'distributing the BB' for folks to hand out. She will work on getting a message ready for the Midweek to let folks know of that need. Mari suggested that we 'adopt' DWD for both November and December as our community service project providing them with Blessing Bags (24 each month) and also providing some sweet treats for all (65 to 80). The dates are 11/15 and 12/20. We will get the work out in the Midweek early Nov and Dec asking for folks to donate sweets in single packaging to hand out.

Received as Information.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

INTERIM LAY PASTOR REPORT from Jackie:

- Continues to prepare and present sermons for all but one Sunday per month.
- Prepares the Midweek bulletin adding the Financials from Mari.
- Meets with mentor Danny Spears.
- Has phone calls with congregants to discuss spiritual journeys.
- Officiated Jennifer Ozanne-Tolman's Celebration of Life/Memorial Service.
- Contacted Aaron Hartman for advice.
- Leads a Bible study.
- The new book study will start sometime in October.
- Added a new subscriber to the Midweek list.
- Talked with a subsequent new addition to the church service viewing from a person looking for an accepting church.

Julie updated everyone explain that the contract have been signed by all parties involved between UFMCC and Jackie and FC MCC and Jackie securing her extension as FirstCoast MCC's Interim Lay Pastor through January 31, 2022.

Received as Information.

Meeting in Person & Copvid-19 Update

Mari reported that the team reached out to each individual that had pre-registered to ensure they were aware that the MIP was postponed. The team met on 8/10 to touch base and discussed that they would not meet again until the BOD decided on a date to MIP. At that time we'll meet, review our Covid-19 protocol recommending whatever changes may be needed.

Jackie also gave an update on how some of the other FL churches were doing worship.

Received as information.

Carry Over Items:

Letter to Inactive Members Regarding the Status of their Membership

Letter to active members who we have not heard from for well over a year to remove them from our membership rolls.

Sandy reported that she has made some progress since last month.

Proposed FC MCC ByLaw Changes

- 1) The number of BOD members (reduce 5 to 3) to match our reduced number of memberships of 50.
- 2) Replace absentee voting with voting via ZOOM

Julie, Lydia and Mari met prior to the BOD meeting to review and author the recommended changes and shared a copy of those with all BOD members and are attached to the minutes. Their next step is to send them to some members to review for clarity and also send to Rebecca, UFMCC for their review and approval. After these reviews a final copy will be presented to the BOD for acceptance to present for a vote at the Jan 2022 Congregational meeting in October or November.

Alternative plan since MIP was canceled/postponed

All board members felt the 4 meetings were very beneficial and the discussion/conversation was candid, sincere and provided insight as we hoped for. Rebecca Wilson from UFMCC was able to join all 4 meetings! They were attended by 47 individuals, which included 46% of our active members! The board will be meeting with Rebecca and Rev Cathy in the next few weeks to begin reviewing the content of those meetings as we put action to those items we can and discuss an action plan for next steps.

The final piece will be the mailing that will happen on 9/30. Information packets will be including a list of the 48 active members, donations and attendance through September 2021, Questions and Gifts to share and BOD and Lay Delegate nomination packets.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Membership Changes:** With the sad passing of Jen Ozanne-Tolman on 9/8/21, our current Total Active Members is 48.
2. **October BOD Meeting** via zoom: The next meeting will be October 18, 2021, 6:00 PM.
3. **Monthly Outreach:** In memory of Jenn O-T we will be adopting S.A.F.E and Elders Source for the past two months. SAFE for her love of animals and she used to be employed at Elders Source as cared for those seniors in need. Mari also shared the thank you note from JASMYN for our support and donation!

The meeting ended at 6:54 PM after closing in prayer by Jackie.

Meeting Minutes submitted by Sandy Speck, Clerk

FIRSTCOAST METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH Bylaws

DRAFT Proposed Amendments 1/30/2022

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A. Organization

Current Verbiage:

1. The Board of Directors shall consist of five (5) members and the Pastor. For every additional fifty (50) members beyond one hundred (100), the Board of Directors shall expand by one (1) additional member until a total of eight (8), excluding the Pastor, is reached.

2. Members shall serve two-year terms beginning the first day of the month following their election and shall be eligible for one (1) reelection. In the case of 5 open positions, the three (3) people receiving the most votes shall serve two (2) year terms. The other two (2) people shall serve a one (1) year term. In the case of four (4) open positions, the two (2) people receiving the most votes shall serve two (2) year terms and the two (2) people remaining shall serve a one (1) year term. Except under extenuating circumstances, a member shall remain off the Board for one (1) year before again seeking election. Vacancies may be filled by appointment, by majority vote of the Board of Directors, until the next Congregational Meeting. The appointed term does not count as elected time.

Proposed Verbiage Changes:

1. *The Board of Directors shall consist of three (3) members and the Pastor. For every additional fifty (50) members beyond one hundred (100), the Board of Directors shall expand by one (1) additional member until a total of eight (8), excluding the Pastor, is reached.*

2. *Members shall serve two-year terms beginning the first day of the month following their election and shall be eligible for one (1) reelection. In the case of 3 open positions, the two (2) people receiving the most votes shall serve two (2) year terms. The other person shall serve a one (1) year term. Except under extenuating circumstances, a member shall remain off the Board for one (1) year before again seeking election. Vacancies may be filled by appointment, by majority vote of the Board of Directors, until the next Congregational Meeting. The appointed term does not count as elected time.*

Rationale: *The BOD has been successful with 3 dedicated individuals for the past few years. 3 individuals will allow all positions (vice-moderator, clerk, treasurer) to be filled and ensure those responsibilities can be fulfilled. Due to the reduction in our membership, currently the only way we can fill 5 positions is to 'appoint' a portion of them.*

Sponsored by: *Mari Gilman & Julie Russell*

IV. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP/CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

A. Section A- The time and place of the Annual Congregational Meeting shall be determined by the Board of Directors

1. Each Member present at the Congregational Meeting shall have the right to cast a single vote.

Current Verbiage:

2. Absentee votes will be allowed in the following circumstances on a case-by-case basis:
 - a. Notice must be given at least 24 hours in advance of the Congregational meeting to a member of the Board of Directors with specific details who will ask our church Administrator to call an emergency Board of Directors board poll or meeting prior to services on Congregational meeting day.
 - b. By majority vote the situation is deemed an extenuating circumstance by the board of Directors.
 - c. The individual is available by phone and signed in by a Board member.
 - d. Two board members, determined by the Board of Directors, will be on the phone with the absentee person during the election to obtain the vote and cast it in their absence.
3. Balloting shall be by written, secret ballot with the exception of the absentee vote explained above.

Proposed Verbiage Changes:

2. *Absentee votes will no longer be accepted as all congregational meetings that require a vote will be held in person (if possible) and via Zoom to provide everyone the ability to listen and participate at the meeting live while the vote is happening.*
3. *Balloting shall be by written, secret ballot for those meeting in person and will be done online via zoom.*

Rationale: *We were successful in holding the virtual only 2021 Congregational meeting with 37% of the members attending along with 2 friends! The ability to be part of the meeting live allows for questions, clarification throughout the meeting.*

Sponsored by: *Mari Gilman & Lydia Williams*