



FirstCoast
MCC[®]
METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING PACKET

for

**Sunday, January 24, 2021
Live Via ZOOM at 1:00 pm**

**Please read and pray about the enclosed
information and join us at the Forum on January 17, 2021
Live Via ZOOM at 1:00 to review any items
in the proposed 2021 budget.**

**DON'T FORGET TO HAVE YOUR PACKET
AVAILABLE FOR THE MEETING.**

Call Church Office with *any questions* – 904-824-2802

"Following the Son in 2021"

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AGENDA

January 24, 2021

- 1. Opening Prayer**
- 2. Establish a Quorum (20% of 53 members = 11)**
- 3. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 4. Review Minutes from the 2020 Congregational Meeting (included in packet)**
- 5. Lay Pastor's Report**
- 6. Consulting GAP Pastor's Report**
- 7. Board of Directors Report**
- 8. Covid-19 Report & Update on Meeting in Person**
 - **Update from Carol Grigg MD**
 - **Review Nov 2020 Survey Results (included in packet)**
- 9. Financial Reports (all included in packet)**
 - **December 2020 Income and Expense Sheet**
 - **December 31, 2020 Balance Sheet**
 - **Designated Funds as of December 31, 2020**
 - **2020 Attendance and Offerings**
- 10. BOD Members for 2021**
 - **No applications received for BOD Member (4 open positions)**
 - **No applications for Lay Delegate (1 open position)**
- 11. 2021 Proposed Budget (included in packet)**
- 12. Closing Prayer**

FirstCoast Metropolitan Community Church
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES
Sunday, January 26, 2020

Following a potluck lunch, the meeting was opened with prayer by Mari Gilman, Vice Moderator, at 12:18pm.

QUORUM

- We have 92 members-in-good-standing – including 1 new one!
- Quorum is 20% - 18 people – a quorum was established.
- We had 25 members represented – including 1 absentee via phone. We had 3 friends present.

AGENDA

- ❖ **MOTION to adopt the Agenda as presented. There were no additions or corrections. Sandy Speck/Jackie Gascho. PASSED**

MINUTES

Minutes from the January 27, 2019 Annual Congregational Meeting and the November 17, 2019 Special Congregational Meeting were presented.

- ❖ **MOTION to approve both minutes as presented. Dick Jones/Ann Grayson. PASSED**

[Dee Ross signed in late, bringing the member total to 26.]

ELECTION

- The two candidates for the open Board positions: Julie Russell, Judy Pendleton.
- There were no candidates for the open Lay Delegate position.
- Both Judy and Julie were elected by written ballot.
- Thanks to Jane and Edna for tallying the ballots.

MINISTRY TEAM AND OTHER REPORTS

The reports were received as information only.

PROPOSED BY LAW AMENDMENT & PROPERTY LISTING AMENDMENT

- By-Laws
- ❖ **MOTION to keep IV.A.3. “Balloting shall be by written, secret ballot with the exception of the absentee vote explained above.” Elizabeth Jensen-Forbell/Dawn Ozanne-Tolman. PASSED.**
- ❖ **MOTION originally presented to remove absentee votes from our By-Laws. Mari Gilman/Jackie Gascho. FAILED**
- Proposal to amend motion from the Special Congregational Meeting
- ❖ **MOTION to allow the Board of Directors to negotiate and accept an offer at/or within 15% below or anything above the advertised listing price for said property within 4 days of receiving the offer. Mari Gilman/Dawn Ozanne-Tolman. PASSED**

FINANCIAL REPORTS

- The numerous Financial Reports, including Income/Expense Sheet, Balance Sheet, Designated Funds List, Attendance/Offering, Audit Letter were all accepted as information.
- Mari also reminded the congregation that 2020 is her last year to serve as our Treasurer. She is ready to train the next Treasurer!

2020 PROPOSED BUDGET

- ❖ **MOTION to approve the 2020 Budget as presented. Mari Gilman/Sandy Speck. PASSED**

The meeting was closed in prayer by Mari Gilman at 12:55pm.

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Jensen-Forbell, Administrator.

Members & Friends of FirstCoast MCC,

Well, it certainly has been an interesting year! As we have dealt with Covid-19, the sale of the church and streaming live worship from the living room, church continues onward. From mid-March to the current time, there have been many challenges mostly with technology. In August after being appointed by the denomination to be the interim lay pastor, we have continued with having weekly service. I continue to be grateful for the opportunity to serve FirstCoast MCC and look forward to the months ahead. Christmas was a busy time with Advent and planning services. I am grateful for Pastor Renee stepping up and doing the homily on Christmas Eve and our Moderator doing the last Sunday of the year! I feel 2021 will see us continue moving in the right direction as long as we always keep **Christ** as the reason for all we do! I would like to thank the members of FirstCoast for allowing me into their homes on Sunday morning as we stream live! I may not get a chance to talk to each of you on a regular basis, however, always know you are all in my prayers and if there is anything, I can do for you please reach out!

Yours in Christ,

Lay Pastor Jackie

Jackie.G@FirstCoastMCC.org

Church phone: 904 824 2802

Virtual Sunday Worship - April through December

Average Number of People **Watching Live** During Sunday Worship is **28**

Average Number of People **Reached** each Sunday at **11:30 am** is **58**

Average Number of People **Reached** each Sunday at **10:30 pm** is **100**

CONSULTING GAP PASTOR – REV. DR. RENEE DUBOSE
FIRSTCOAST MCC, ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA
August 10, 2020 – December 31, 2020

It has been a huge honor & privilege to serve as **FirstCoast MCC's** "Consulting GAP Pastor" since 8/10/20. It has been one of the highlights of 2020 for me! Since August, I've worked in the following ways to assist **FirstCoast MCC** as it moves forward in the coming months/years:

Some Key Goals/Actions:

- Modeled healthy pastoral behavior, pastoral care & treating ALL members fairly & with love
- Was intentional about practicing "a ministry of presence" – even in these virtual days – to help the members (& maybe even especially the leadership) to feel less alone due to really stressful times in the church's recent years
- Received the membership roster of **FirstCoast MCC** & made initial contact either via phone call, email or text to every active member – including former pastors, their spouses – etc.
- Reviewed church documentations & key historical insights
- Worked with Interim Pastoral Leader (IPL) to assist her with quality worship by preaching at least once a month (& as needed), while also passing along MCC resources (worship, Board, etc.) as available/known
- Attempted, with current Board members, to find "new board members for Jan. 2021 meeting
- Virtually attended the church's weekly events (as time & schedule permit):
 - Weekly Worship (Sundays @ 10:30 AM)
 - Weekly Zoom Social Gathering (Sundays @ 12 Noon)
 - Weekly POD (Principles of Discipleship) Meetings
 - Wednesdays @ 12 Noon (occasionally due to other AM responsibilities)
 - Thursdays @ 6:30 PM (Jacksonville POD) & 7:00 PM (St. Augustine POD) which I typically alternate between
 - Monthly Board of Directors Meeting (usually 3rd Sunday of month @ 2 PM)
 - Bi-weekly Zoom meeting with IPL – Jackie Gascho
- Christmas/Holiday Contact with Active members (2nd contact) via mailing Christmas cards ☺
- Meeting with Board of Directors regarding 2021 plans for **FirstCoast MCC**

Closing Thoughts:

In closing, I want to commend you, **FirstCoast MCC**. During my short time with you, I have found the current lay leaders, Board members & long time members to be delightful, loving, kind & committed to **FirstCoast MCC**. The church seems to operate like a medium size family – with members working to make sure everyone is cared for. I find members to be very attached to each other, with strong familial ties. I would even say they "cling" to each other to make sure they ALL make it through whatever they are facing at the time. Personally, I think they "cling" to each other because they have been through some traumatic & stressful times due to former clergy challenges. I DO believe **FirstCoast MCC IS** healing. I also want to express sincere apologies to YOU, **FirstCoast MCC**, for all the stress & challenges you've faced over the past 5-7 years. I DO believe some really GOOD years are on the horizon for YOU! ☺

You know, 2020 reminds me of the 7 lean years in Egypt (Genesis 39:53-42:18). And yet, even with a decrease in the number of members (or maybe it was actually just a readjusting of "true members" to 52) AND the decrease in donations/tithes, **FirstCoast STILL** has a very positive Profit & Loss ledger. (See enclosed financial report). And even though there may be concern over the drop in donations/tithing, **FirstCoast** is still in great financial shape – especially if every member/friend of **FirstCoast MCC** actively gives (financially) & by volunteering to serve – in 2021! I look forward to our time together through mid-February 2021!

Peace & Possibilities,

Rev. Dr. Renee DuBose
reneedubose12@gmail.com

FirstCoast MCC BOD: Remembering 20 Highlights During 2020!

1. Listed the property/church as of 1/1, future buyer visited 2/13, made a cash offer 2/22, and closed on 4/30.
2. In April Carole Adams went to see and be with the birds in heaven. We are reminded of her love and presence each time we see a beautiful bird visit us.
3. We held the last worship service 'open to all' due to Covid-19 on 3/15 and held the last service in the log church on 4/26.
4. Began vigorously in March cleaning out sheds, attic, etc. donating and packing up everything and moved contents to Storage.
5. Signed a contract with Temple Bet Yam to use their facilities at a temporary meeting place to hold worship.
6. Began streaming Sunday worship live via Facebook on 3/22, not missing one Sunday Worship.
7. We added the weekly Sunday noon social via Zoom in April. Average weekly attendance is 12.
8. Monthly BOD meetings have been held via zoom, since April, open to all. Average attendance is 11.
9. Monthly BOD meeting documents: Agenda, Minutes and Financials for 2020 are available on the web site.
10. During June the BOD members hand delivered *FirstCoast MCC We Care Kits* to each local member!
11. Jan through Jul we were blessed with a variety of guest speakers each Sunday delivering their message!
12. We were able to respond to needs as requests were received, PC, Microwave, technical support, rides, etc.
13. August held major staffing changes. After over 23 years as FirstCoast MCCC's administrator, Elizabeth last day was 8/9. 8/10 was Jackie Gascho's first day as our part time Interim Lay Pastor (1 year contract) and Dr Rev Renee DuBose's first day as our part time Consulting GAP Pastor (6 month contract).
14. During November, Covid-19 survey sent to 55 members, 25 responded (51%).
15. Outreach was minimal but meaningful! Supplies were donated, bags assembled and over 100 Blessing Bags were handed out to those in need. 80 Blessing Bags were assembled and distributed to Dining with Dignity during Nov and Dec. Rainbow POD supported the Boys & Girls Club in St Augustine during the holidays.
16. Expanding our reach outside of the local St Augustine area because of **virtual Sunday worship on FB**.
17. Many texts, emails, cards, zoom calls and driveway visits took place allowing us to stay connected!
18. Our POD Groups (3) continued to meet via Zoom averaging 20 participants weekly.
19. Membership: 91 -1 (death) - 21 (inactive) -13 (requested removal) - 4 (transfer) + 1 (re-active) = current **53**
20. No FirstCoast MCC members were lost to Covid-19!

2020 Board of Directors: Jackie Gascho - Moderator, Mari Gilman - Vice Moderator & Treasurer, Dawn Ozanne - Clerk, Sandy Speck, Julie Russell