

FirstCoast Metropolitan Community Church
BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Sunday, February 15, 2021 – BOARD MEETING via ZOOM

Following the Son in 2021

Current Board: Interim Lay Pastor Jackie Gascho – Moderator, Julie Russell-Vice Moderator,
Sandy Speck -Clerk, Mari Gilman - Treasurer
CURRENT ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP – 52

Opening Prayer

Review of Agenda & Motion to Accept

REPORTS

Clerk of Board Report

1. Minutes from December 21, 2020 BOD Meeting (Mari)
2. Minutes for January 24, 2021 BOD Meeting (Mari)
3. Minutes for Congregational Meeting January 24, 2021 (For Review Only) (Mari)

Financial Report

1. January 2021 Income & Expense Report
2. Misc Items (Numbers, Taxes, Assessment Report)

Ministry Area Reports (As Needed)

1. Service Ministry

Pastoral Transition Update

1. Interim Lay Pastor Jackie

Relocation Plan Update

1. Update from the 2/9/21 Meeting ‘Next Location Planning Team’ via Zoom

Covid-19 & Meeting in Person Update

1. Local Health Management Update from Dr Carol
2. Review and Update Current Plan as Needed
3. Update from 2/9/21 Meeting to Discuss **Meeting in Person** Prep Plans

CARRY OVER ITEMS / Updates

1. Update on Storage Sheds (Mari)

NEW BUSINESS

1. Elder Affirmation / Lay Delegate (Jackie)
2. Insurance March 1 2021 – March 1 2022
3. Annual Report to UFMCC
4. Zoom Annual vs Monthly Cost
5. Membership Changes – if any (Sandy)
6. March BOD Meeting March 15, 20221 via zoom

Close in Prayer

Closed Executive Session – if needed

FirstCoast Metropolitan Community Church
BOARD MEETING MINUTES – Sunday, December 20, 2020 (recorded)
Current Board: Mari Gilman, Sandy Speck,
Dawn Ozanne, Julie Russell

BOARD PRESENT: Mari Gilman, Sandy Speck, Julie Russell, Lay Pastor Jackie Gascho (Interim Pastor)

BOARD ABSENT: Dawn Ozanne

LAY DELEGATES: N/A

OTHERS PRESENT: Hazel S, Pastor Renee, Shirley & Carol, Lydia W

Active Members: 53

TASK ITEMS

- The meeting began at 2:05 PM
- Pastor Renee opened with prayer.
- Review of the agenda. **MOTION to Accept Agenda Julie R, Seconded Sandy S. Passed**

CONSENT AGENDA REPORTS

CLERK'S REPORT

The minutes from November 22, 2020 meeting was presented.

MOTION to accept the November minutes Mari G, Seconded by Julie, Motion Passed

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT

- Attendance numbers were reviewed.
 - November weekly average \$1,217
 - \$1,233 weekly YTD average
 - \$1,396 weekly Budget
- Reviewed the Income & Expenses for November 2020
- Designated Funds as of 11/30/2020 were reviewed.
- November Taxes were paid 12/14, Assessment Report mailed to MCC on 12/8
- The reports are on our web site for viewing.

MOTION to accept the Treasurer's reports with the above corrections Mari G, Seconded by Sandy, Motion Passed

MINISTRY REPORTS AS NEEDED:

Service Ministry:

Tomorrow, 12/21 Mari will deliver the 40 Blessing Bags to St Paul's AME church for distribution to the DWD dinner on Monday. Lydia reported that she has also distributed about 25 bags throughout the month as well. Jackie offered to pick up some bags from Lydia and deliver them to folks who can't pick them up as well.

We received a suggestion to put the recipe for the Blessing Bags in the Midweek so that those who couldn't get to the premade ones could put their own together to hand out. Will publish a list of contents and photo in future Midweek distributions.

Pastor Renee asked if we put a business card with the church's name on it. She said it was important that be included as these Blessing Bags created out of the Service Ministry of FirstCoast MCC.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Consultant Gap Pastoral Report: Pastor Renee reported updates since last month. All members should have received holiday cards from her. Initial meeting / conversation with the BOD this month and will meet again in Jan. She is reading a book over the holidays about outreach ministry to gain from it. She was asked if she had an end date, February 14, 2021. She will come back when we are able to meet in person to continue/complete her tasks as our Gap Pastor.

Interim Pastor Report: Jackie reported that she continues to focus on worship. This month has been busy with advent and other special services to prepare for. She is working with Ruthie and Anna on getting their PCs up and running. She meets with Rev Renee and her mentors weekly as well as Rev Cathy and Rebecca from MCC who continue to provide her support.

Covid-19 & Meeting in Person Update:

Dr Carol Grigg sent the following report to the BOD that was read at the meeting.

COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS DISEASE-2019)

As of Saturday evening (12/19/20), across the country, the daily # of cases is higher than it has ever been, in the history of this disease, with about 9.5 million active cases and over 2500 deaths by 6pm today (Saturday).

This is the 3rd spike in cases nationwide with this upward surge 3 times higher than the one last summer and continuing to rise. Hospitals across the country are being crushed by the numbers of infected, due to lack of personnel, equipment and space to handle the deaths, and even cries for help in finding morgue trucks to move bodies from the facilities. Today, it was announced that COVID-19 is now the #1 cause of death in the US.

Fortunately, for Florida, our 3rd spike has been somewhat delayed, likely due to the warm weather until now. The cold weather across the country will drive people inside, and along with the return of college kids back home, and Holiday travel, should simply delay our spike into January, February and March. **NOW IS THE TIME TO BE VIGILANT, DO NOT GO ANYWHERE YOU DO NOT HAVE TO GO, AND SPACE AND MASK, WHEN YOU DO HAVE TO GO OUT.**

The good news is that there is a light at the end of the tunnel, and I do not think it is an incoming train! Vaccines are not readily available, to all, at the current time, and while I personally have the opportunity of vaccination, being on the staff of both Advent Health and Halifax Hospital. As I am not directly in the "line of fire" like my staff providers are, I am holding off on my own vaccination until I can see the local data, but suspect that it must be relatively safe, as Biden, Pelosi, and others are planning on obtaining theirs next week.

Our organization (Florida Health Care Plans, an HMO) is sending home with every person positive for Corona Virus a **pulse oximeter** and shown how to use it. These are available in WalMart and drug stores and on-line. The reason being this: Unlike other respiratory diseases, the brain when infected with COVID, does not usually recognize how short of breath you are, until it is too late, therefore not giving folks enough time to get to a hospital or oxygen. I would recommend that every household have one to monitor your oxygen level, called O2 level by medical personnel. The oxygen level **MUST** stay in the low to mid 90's or else the person is about to develop respiratory failure.

I would recommend as much phone and internet interaction with every member of our church, whether active or not, as social isolation is a killer in many ways. And we need to spread the hope of knowing that this evil pandemic will likely be under control by mid-summer, so just "HANG IN THERE" as best you can, be brave for others, and thank God over and over for patience and love, and for all our blessings. So many are suffering, and it just breaks my heart.

For more info, check out this link: [Coronavirus United States - live map tracker from Microsoft Bing](#)
Carol Grigg, MD

Pastor Renee suggested that we ask Dr Carol Grigg to give a verbal update at the January Congregational Meeting. She suggested we put them on our website and share with other MCCs who do not have access to that information. Mari will follow up with that excellent request.

At this time and for 1st Quarter of 2021 we will continue to meet exclusively virtual. We will continue to monitor and make decisions accordingly.

In February we will Kick Off the meeting to discuss and author our checklist to come back safely when we do meet in person and to begin actively to find a meeting location.

2021 BOD Nominating Planning Update:

Carol reported that no one reached out or submitted any applications for either the BOD openings (4) or Lay Delegate (1).

Discussion was held regarding attendance at the congregational meeting and the lack of support we are having with BOD meetings. Mari reminded everyone that we had less than 30 people at the 2020 congregational meeting (actual count for 2020 was 92 members and there were 25 members in attendance, 1 via phone).

Mari explained what information would be in the Congregational Meeting packet that will be mailed out on January 5th to each member (1 per household).

Update on Storage Units: All the chairs have been sold as of December so we'll be cleaning out the outside shed in January to either downsize to a smaller outside unit or try to get down to just one inside storage unit (10x20).

NEW BUSINESS

Membership Changes: Ann Munn has requested that her membership be reactivated. That makes our membership 53.

The next mini BOD meeting will be on January 24th, 2021 after the Congregational Meeting via Zoom.

Two items of business: 1) appoint individuals to the BOD 2) elect officers

The meeting ended at 3:10 PM after closing in prayer by Jackie.

Meeting Minutes submitted by Mari Gilman, Vice Moderator & Treasurer

FirstCoast Metropolitan Community Church
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES
Sunday, January 24, 2021

The meeting was opened by Mari Gilman, Vice Moderator, at 1:09 am

Pastor Renee opened us in prayer.

QUORUM

- We have 52 members-in-good-standing
- Quorum is 20% - 11 people – a quorum was established.
- We had 19 members represented (37%). We had 2 friends present.
 - Since it was virtual, attendance was taken by Julie and Jackie for the records.

AGENDA

- ❖ **MOTION to adopt the Agenda as presented. There were no additions or corrections. Elizabeth Jensen-Forbell, Jackie Gascho. PASSED**

MINUTES

Minutes from the January 25, 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting was presented.

- ❖ **MOTION to approve both minutes as presented. Jackie G / Julie R. Motion PASSED**

REPORTS

The Interim Lay Pastor, Consulting GAP Pastor and the BOD reports were received as information only.

Pastor Renee's current contract ends on 2/14/21 but she will be coming back and working with us to complete some of the tasks of the GAP Pastor when we begin to meet in person again.

COVID-19 Report & Update on Meeting in Person

Dr Carol Grigg provided in person and she also the following written report to be included in the minutes.

Website: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/coronavirus?ocid=msedgdhp)

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/coronavirus?ocid=msedgdhp>

The CORONA VIRUS-19 has been in this country for a year now. In that time, it has spiked in numbers, first in March of 2020, again in July and then a huge jump in January, 2021, which should continue for a couple of months longer.

Herd Immunity: Define. 85% is thought to be how many of us must be immune to prevent epidemic spread.

Pandemic means all around the world.

WORLD-WIDE there are almost 100 million active cases and over 2 million deaths !

To explain the **situation here in the US**, you may already know that we have a population of 330 million people.

Of those 330 million, we have 25 million active cases, and 11 million recovering, which is about 10% of the population. Even if we believed that having the disease gave people long-lasting immunity, which we do not believe, only 10% of the population has developed some immunity, and if you remember, **HERD IMMUNITY** must be at 85% for this to no longer easily spread.

Right now, in our country, as of this morning, there have been 425,000 deaths, currently at about 5000 per day!

IN FLORIDA, as of this morning:

1. Just under 2 million active cases
2. Over 25,000 deaths total so far
3. 274 deaths on Friday in FL and 156 more so far this morning

BIDEN:

1. Assigned someone to lead the Corona Virus Taskforce
2. Signed a law mandating masks/safe distancing in and on all federal property and buildings
3. Initiated a 100 day challenge for mask usage with campaigns for safety.
4. Eliminated eviction for 2 more months for non-payment of rent.

WALK AWAY with these 3 points:

1. Right now is the most dangerous time ever for contracting the virus.
2. Mutations and new variants which are more contagious and **more deadly** are making predictions “iffy” but for now, most vaccines appear to be safe and working for all strains of the virus.
3. Get vaccinated if you can.

Dr Carol was able to provide some clarity and answer some questions from those that were on the call.

When will begin meeting in person again? The BOD is committed to take the advice of those in medical positions and will keep all informed. Mari informed all about the kickoff meeting in February (2/9) to ensure we have a document protocol for safely meeting in person, when the time is right. Also, we will be looking for a new location to meet. Temple Bet Yam was always a temporary solution until we found another space that would meet our needs. **ALL** are encouraged to get involved and assist when/where you can.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The numerous Financial Reports, including Income/Expense Sheet, Balance Sheet, Designated Funds List, Attendance/Offering were all accepted as information.

ELECTION

No voting was required as no applications were received for either the BOD positions (4) or Lay Delegate (1). At the January BOD meeting (after the congregational meeting) Julie (the only elected BOD member) will appoint Sandy and Mari to serve on the BOD until the next election at the congregational meeting in Jan 2022. As we see individuals that are interested in serving on the BOD

we will get them involved this year so that we will have candidates to run for the 5 open BOD positions as of Jan 2022!

As events arise that our Lay Delegate would represent us, the BOD and/or our Interim Lay Pastor will appoint an appropriate person to fill that role as needed for the remainder of this year.

2021 PROPOSED BUDGET

❖ **MOTION to approve the 2021 Budget as presented. Mari Gilman/Julie Russell. PASSED**

Jackie closed our meeting in prayer.

The meeting was adjourned by Mari Gilman at 1:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mari Gilman, Vice Moderator & Treasurer

FirstCoast Metropolitan Community Church
BOARD MEETING MINUTES – Sunday, January 24, 2021 (recorded)
Current Board: Mari Gilman, Sandy Speck, Julie Russell

BOARD PRESENT: Julie Russell, Sandy Speck, Mari Gilman, Lay Pastor Jackie Gascho (Interim Pastor)

BOARD ABSENT: N/A

LAY DELEGATES: N/A

OTHERS PRESENT: Hazel S, Pastor Renee

Active Members: 52

The meeting began at 2:00 PM

Appointment of BOD Members

Julie appointed Sandy Speck and Mari Gilman to be members of the BOD for the remainder of this year until the next election at the congregational meeting in Jan 2022. Both Sandy and Mari accepted the appointments.

Election of officers:

Vice Moderator is Julie Russell

Clerk is Sandy Speck

Treasurer is Mari Gilman

Board Poll on January 16, 2021:

Motion made by Mari: As Jackie has been our Lay Delegate for several years in the past and is/has been part of this communication and is willing to do this role for FC MCC, I would like to make a motion that we appoint her as our temporary Lay Delegate to perform those duties and communicate to the Members of FC MCC about the slate of Elders and based on input/feedback from the congregation Jackie will register and vote on the Confirmation of the Slate of Elders as explained below.

Seconded by Julie. Motion Passed.

The **next monthly BOD meeting** will be on Monday, February 15, 2021 at 7:00 pm et via Zoom

The meeting ended at 2:15 PM after closing in prayer by Jackie.

Meeting Minutes submitted by Mari Gilman, Treasurer