

**FirstCoast Metropolitan Community Church**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes- Monday April 11, 2022 (recorded)**  
**Current Board: Jackie Gascho, Julia Russell, Mari Gilman, Lydia Williams**  
**CURRENT ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP - 36**

Board Present: Jackie Gascho: Interim Lay Pastor, Julia Russell: Vice Moderator, Mari Gilman: Treasurer, Lydia Williams: Clerk  
Board Absent: none  
Others Present: Carol, Shirley, Hazel, and Ruthie

**TASK ITEMS**

Meeting began at 6:00 p.m.  
Opened with prayer by Jackie Gascho

Addition to Agenda

Add to New Business: Update on Closing FirstCoast MCC

Add to New Business: Update on 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting In Person Celebration

**MOTION to accept agenda with two additional items    Mari/Lydia    Motion Passed**

**CONSENT AGENDA REPORTS**

**CLERK'S REPORT**

Minutes from March 14 2022 B.O.D. meeting

**MOTION to accept    Lydia/Mari Motion passed.**

**TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup> BOD Meeting (Mari)**

- Reviewed weekly attendance numbers.
  - Mar weekly average \$644
  - \$584 weekly YTD average (\$940 weekly Budget)
- Reviewed the Income & Expenses for March 2022
- Reviewed Designated Funds as of March 31, 2022
- Mar Taxes will be paid to the IRS on 4/14 via online
- First Quarter 941 Tax Reports will be mailed to the IRS on 4/15
- Mar Assessment Report was completed and mailed to MCC on 4/8 with the check
- Jan-Mar BOP Report was completed and mailed to MCC on 4/8 with the check
- Mari has reached out to Mo Kelly who will do the 2021 Audit

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

## **MINISTRY REPORTS AS NEEDED:**

### **Service Ministry:**

BLESSING BAGS, Lydia: There were 3 Bags distributed.

Next project is 25-30 bags to Dining with Dignity for April 2022. Completed, ready to go.

*Accepted as information*

## **CONTINUING BUSINESS**

### **Interim Lay Pastor's Report: Jackie Gascho**

March was a full month for me! I have reached out and spoken with the Reverend Dr. Danny Spears, my TIM mentor on a monthly basis and Rev Aaron on a monthly basis as a friend and have been in contact with Rev Catherine Dearlove. We continue to meet virtually and will for the foreseeable future! I continue to do the design for worship and preach. I had Rev Dr Danny Spears preach the 1st Sunday of Lent! Other than that, I have preached every Sunday and will continue till the end! We continue to do what we do and encourage the folks who attend virtually. I had a virtual memorial service planned for the last week of March; however, it was postponed till this coming week! This is for the father of someone I have never met but know through a friend! This is one of my Township game friends! I have started planning the 25th anniversary celebration for May 15th, attend Pod groups, reach out to members who are dealing with health issues, midweek and still planning, design and writing sermons on a weekly basis!

*Accepted as information*

## **MEETING IN PERSON/COVID UPDATE**

Via Julie, no significant changes to information previously received

*Accepted as information*

## **CARRY-OVER ITEMS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Membership Changes. Due to the Death of Rainbow (Sue) Williams our current membership is now 36**

**2. Monthly outreach: "Port in the Storm" was for both March and April**

**3. Next and Final BOD meeting via zoom will be on: Monday, May 9, 11, 2022 @ 6:00.**  
*This will happen after the special congregation meeting concludes.*

#### **4. Update on Closing FirstCoast MCC**

- ✓ Notification on our final worship service as of 5/22/22 and closing FirstCoast MCC was mailed to all 37 active members via us mail on 3/16/22. Letter is attached to minutes.
- ✓ eMail notification was sent out on 4/5/22 that representatives from UFMCC would like to meet via zoom with all members to discuss closing. As of 4/11 no date has been scheduled for the call.
- ✓ Also included in this email was an official notification of a special congregation meeting on 5/9/22 at 6:00 pm for all members to vote on closing FirstCoast MCC. Copy of email is attached to minutes.
- ✓ 21 members (58%) acknowledged the email and content
- ✓ Any member who did not acknowledge the email before 4/7 was mailed a copy of the email via us mail. Mailed 16 mail pieces to 17 members.

#### **5. Update on 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

- ✓ On 3/16 all members were sent via us mail the letter about our 25<sup>th</sup> MIP celebration on 5/15.
- ✓ Pay It Forward: An email was sent on 4/4 to all 36 members with a list of 16 local/MCC companies to donate the proceeds from the sale of the building/land (\$179k) as part of 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Paying It Forward and investing in our legacy and the future of our community. The email asked for their feedback on any suggestions and approval to move forward to disperse the funds.
- ✓ 19 members acknowledged (53%)
- ✓ 1 out of the 19 members wanted to wait until after the 5/9 meeting to move forward.
- ✓ Feedback on the companies presented:
  - BEAKS was replaced by HAWKE
  - St Johns Ecumenical Food Bank was added to the list
  - LGBTQ Center, Equality Florida: TransAction, and St Aug Interfaith Community were suggested but not added to the list after discussion of each.
- ✓ Checks will be written and mailed to the 17 recipients. We will move forward and do that as part of our upcoming May 15, 2022, 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.
- ✓ A list of the companies is included as an attachment to the minutes.

**MOTION to move forward and write the checks and pay it forward to the 17 companies all members had input on and donate the \$170k that is part of designated funds from the sale of building/land for future planning. This will allow us to invest in our local community allowing our legacy to continue. Mari/Julie Motion Passed**

The meeting ended at 6:38 pm after closing prayer by Jackie Gascho.

Meeting Minutes submitted by Lydia (Clerk) and Mari (Treasurer)



FirstCoast  
MCC®

METROPOLITAN  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

***Jesus Needs YOU in 2022!***

March 16, 2022

Dear Member of FirstCoast MCC,

After much discussion, hours of discernment and prayer, and sharing with our contacts at UFMCC, we have made the decision that it is time to close FirstCoast MCC. Lack of volunteers/leaders during this time of transition has led us to make this decision.

Even with this sad news, let us be reminded that we have so much to be grateful for. Each of us have been given the opportunity to serve our God and our community as part of this institution for either a year or all 25 years!! Now it's time for that next leg of our service journey to begin, taking with us all that we've learned together and from each other over the years we've served together. Let's use all that 'training' to continue to ***Celebrate God's Unconditional Love for ALL People*** in our daily lives. Each of us can continue to have a positive impact on others and our community if we choose to do so. We've each been given the tools to continue to do God's work.

Please mark your calendars with the dates of the following upcoming events you won't want to miss.

- 3/16/22 Notification mailed to all 37 members
- 3/27/22 Announce in Sunday Worship
- 3/30/22 Announce in Weekly Midweek
- 5/15/22 ***FirstCoast MCC Celebrates 25 Years*** Sunday Worship
- 5/15/22 Celebration and Farewell Potluck from noon to 4:00 at  
The South Hampton Amenity Center (140 South Hampton Club Way St Augustine FL 32092)
- 5/22/22 Final worship service for FirstCoast MCC

Ecclesiastes 3:1 "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens..."

Out of respect for each other to process, please keep your discussions within our church family until it is officially announced on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

If you have any questions on the above, please call the church office or reach out to any board member.

With love in our hearts!

Your FirstCoast Board of Directors  
*Julie, Lydia, and Mari*

FirstCoast MCC / PO Box 3634 / St. Augustine, FL 32085 / (904) 824-2802

[www.FirstCoastMCC.org](http://www.FirstCoastMCC.org) Jackie Gascho, Interim Lay Pastor

*FirstCoast MCC is a Christian church celebrating God's unconditional love for all people.*

**Mari Gilman <mari.g@firstcoastmcc.org>**

Apr 5, 2022,  
6:52 PM

to Mari, bcc: Ann, bcc: Carol, bcc: Dora, bcc: Jackie, bcc: Jane, bcc: Kenny, bcc: Laurie, bcc: Madeline, bcc: Marge, bcc: Mari, bcc: Rev, bcc: Sandra, bcc: Wanda, bcc: Ann, bcc: Carol, bcc: Dawn, bcc: Dianne, bcc: Dick, bcc: Elizabeth, bcc: Hazel, bcc: Irene, bcc: Julia, bcc: Kelly, bcc: Lois, bcc: Lydia, bcc: Marie, bcc: Mary, bcc: Maureen, bcc: Michael, bcc: Nyk, bcc: Rainbow, bcc: Ruth, bcc: Sue/Pete

**To all members of FirstCoast MCC,**

When your BOD notified UFMCC last week of our decision to close, they were very surprised to hear that and asked to meet with us on 4/4 to discuss. Your BOD met with Rebecca and Rev Cathy from UFMCC last night and we were informed that the state of Florida requires **any nonprofit organization to hold a formal congregational meeting to vote on the closing of the organization.** We apologize to you for that oversight on our behalf and to ensure we abide by the law, we are notifying you of a special congregational meeting to be held via zoom on **Monday, May 9th at 6:00 pm to vote on the closing of FirstCoast MCC.** The link will be sent out to all members one week prior to the call.

On that same call, we were also **informed** that Rev Cecilia Eggleston, Moderator of UFMCC had written a letter to the members of FirstCoast MCC and was sending those letters out the following day. You may have received that letter today via email just as your BOD did as members of the church. Content of that letter was not shared with your BOD, but we were told the main message was to ask our congregation to allow representatives from UFMCC to talk to us as a congregation **before we meet and vote to close.**

They asked that we not hold our special congregational meeting to vote on the closure of the church until after they had an opportunity to allow you to hear from them. These are two individuals that have been meeting with your BOD for over 2 years, a member of the Governing Board and they are still looking for another individual in their leadership to join them.

Your BOD is giving you the official 30 day notice for this special meeting. We will communicate to UFMCC that date and ask them to please provide us a date for the call with UFMCC representatives and we will set up the zoom meeting. We will send that date out to all of you as soon as they share that with us. They offered to send representatives here and asked that we work with them to meet in person. In our past two years of experience, we've had such a better turnout via zoom and do not feel that will be money well spent. We will also be sending you a copy of this email to your mailing address as well as an alternative method of ensuring you are notified.

Your BOD has been nothing but upfront with you on all our decisions and this is no different. If you would like to hear a transcript of that call, please let us know and we'll set up a zoom meeting and share with those who care to hear the actual conversation.

Based on the feedback from 19 members who responded, the following 17 nonprofit organizations will each be the recipient of \$10,000 from FirstCoast MCC as we *Pay It Forward* in Celebration of our 25 years of service by investing in the future of our local community.

Feeding the hungry:

1. St Paul's AME (Dining With Dignity) to continue our Blessing Bag ministry
2. Pie in the Sky
3. Council on Aging - Meals on Wheels
4. St Johns Ecumenical Food Pantry

Caring for those in the community who need assistance/support:

1. Council on Aging - Care Connection
2. Betty Griffin House
3. St Francis House
4. JASMYN
5. St Augustine Youth Services

Caring for the animals who bring us unconditional love:

1. S.A.F.E
2. St Johns Humane Society
3. Florida Audubon Society
4. Council on Aging - Food and Care for Animals
5. H.A.W.K.E.
6. K-9 for Warriors

2 MCC churches that have supported both our ILP Jackie and church during this past 24+ months of the pandemic and transition:

1. Trinity MCC
2. Hartford MCC