

FirstCoast Metropolitan Community Church

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Monday, March 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 February 15, 2021 BOD Meeting (Sandy)

Financial Report

1. **February** 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

Next location Plan Update

1. Update from the meeting to discuss ‘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 Meeting to Discuss **Meeting in Person** Prep Plans

CARRY OVER ITEMS / Updates

1. **Insurance March 1 2021-2022**(Mari)

NEW BUSINESS

1. Annual Report and Risk Assessment to UFMCC
2. Membership Changes – if any (Sandy)
3. April BOD Meeting April 19, 20221 via zoom@ 6 pm
4. Monthly Outreach
5. Set dates for forum and congregational meeting
6. Review of members eligible to move to inactive

Close in Prayer

Closed Executive Session – if needed

FirstCoast Metropolitan Community Church

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BOARD MEETING MINUTES – Monday, February 15, 2021 (recorded)
Current Board: Jackie Gascho, Mari Gilman, Julie Russell, Sandy Speck

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

BOARD ABSENT: none

LAY DELEGATES: Jackie Gascho

OTHERS PRESENT: Hazel Simpson, Shirley VanRy, Carol Novak

Active Members: 52

TASK ITEMS

- The meeting began at 7:02 PM
- Pastor Jackie opened with prayer.
- Review of the agenda. Additions to New Business: #7 Dex copier, #8 Outreach

MOTION to Accept Agenda with additions Sandy/ Mari. Motion Passed

CONSENT AGENDA REPORTS

CLERK'S REPORT

- Minutes from December 21, 2020 BoD meeting (Mari) There was a correction to 12/21 from 12/20.

MOTION to accept the December minutes with correction Mari/Sandy, Motion Passed

- Minutes from January 24, 2021 BoD meeting (Mari)

MOTION to accept the January minutes Mari/Julie, Motion Passed

- Minutes from January 24, 2021 Congregational Meeting (Mari)

For Review Only

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT

January Income & Expense and Miscellaneous Items Report

- Reviewed the Income & Expenses for January 2021
 - January weekly average \$1,131
 - \$1,131 weekly YTD average
 - \$769 weekly Budget
- December Taxes were paid 1/12. 2020 4th Quarter 941 (Tax/WH) mailed to the IRA on 1/25. January Taxes were paid on 2/4.
- Attendance numbers were reviewed.
- January Assessment Report was mailed to MCC on 1/5 with the check. February Assessment Report was mailed to MCC on 2/4. 2020 BOP (Board of Pensions) report and check was mailed to MCC on 2/4.
- W2/W3s for 2020 were filed on 1/28 and mailed to our employees. 1099 was created and filed on 1/28 and mailed out.
- 2020 Giving Statements were mailed to all members on 1/25.

- The reports are on our web site for viewing.

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

MINISTRY REPORTS AS NEEDED:

Service Ministry:

No deliveries made to Dining With Dignity due to weather.

Supplies that were needed were provided to Lydia for Blessing Bags so nothing currently needed but items always welcome and are listed in the Midweek.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Interim Pastor Report: Jackie continues to put together worship; she and Mari do the Midweek; checks on people as needed (will be pending several hours with Ruthie); Book Study going very well.

Location plan Update: Kickoff Meeting 02/09 with 10 people. Focus on two points: location and protocol for meeting in person. Assignments were given to everyone to call different locations with a standard list of questions to ask – a script so we are all consistent with what's being asked – to determine what may be available and at what cost.

Covid-19 & Meeting in Person Update:

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

COVID UPDATE - 02/14/2021

Carol Grigg, MD

While the **numbers of cases of COVID** during this 3rd surge, which is the largest in less than a year, are finally beginning to fall, the number of deaths due to this virus are increasing.

In the United States, the number of active cases is about 30 million, of which 1.8 million are in Florida. So far, we have lost in this country, almost a half a million lives, 30,000 of which are right here in Florida.

The states with the highest infection and death toll are these:

New York

California

Texas

Florida

Pennsylvania

Mass delivery of **VACCINES** began 2 months ago in many high-income countries, but some low income countries are yet to receive a single dose, yet. Here in the US, while there are about 1/3 of the population with "vaccine

hesitancy", meaning they do not intend to get vaccinated, there is also HIGH DEMAND for the vaccine which is still in very short supply. And, the vaccine appears to **be more protective than having the disease**, for building antibody defense.

Right now, the number of US citizens vaccinated is 3%, and also 3% of Floridians, as well. (Keep in mind that 85% is the number we need vaccinated to create "herd immunity" so that the spread no longer occurs.)

More doses are coming to Florida this week. And the new administration is attempting to implement improvements to our overall Health Departments around the country.

There is good news from the CDC this week, and that is this: Once you are vaccinated, 2 weeks after your second booster shot, you no longer have to quarantine if you come into an exposure encounter with someone who has the disease. In other words, even though masking and distancing will be required, you may work and go out without fear of worsening yourself or others. (I suspect that vaccination cards will be like passports for certain activities, like flying, attending church?, etc.)

POINTERS:

1. All of us should become **"VACCINE CHAMPIONS"** and encourage whoever we can to also become vaccinated.
2. The goal right now is to **save LIVES** and to keep our hospitals open and functioning.
3. Understand that the **"LONG HAULERS"** with residual symptoms such as shortness of breath, migraines, fatigue and other other serious after-effects may not be able to return to work, even by 6 months.
4. **GET VACCINATED** wherever and whenever you can.
5. **Double mask**, now, or find a tighter fitting mask to prevent further spread, as we now know that you are more likely to obtain the virus from air than from contaminated surfaces.

Finally, there is a new belief in the medical community, that COVID may become ENDEMIC, meaning that it is "here to stay" and that we will "LEARN TO LIVE WITH IT" like we have with tuberculosis, HIV, influenza, and the common cold. This is due to the mutations, a few of which are extremely contagious and more deadly than the original strain which began in NYC and Washington State. With time, we will be able to identify and adjust our vaccines to deal with these newer strains, but at the current time, the vaccines available, have provided enough protection that while some have become sick with the newer strains (variants), not a single person has become critically ill, nor has died, if they were vaccinated.

We are likely looking at the end of summer for a return to some semblance of normalcy.

Update on Storage Units: Mari and Julie cleaned out the outside storage shed so we are now down to one 10x20 inside storage shed. Cost is now \$220 monthly.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The UFMCC slate of Elders were all affirmed, individually and not by an entire slate, by at least 85%. Jackie, as our Lay Delegate said she voted to affirm all of them.
2. Insurance: It runs from March 1, 2021-March 1, 2022. We are due a refund from the current insurance company and they have stopped returning calls so after 13 years of being with that company, we are not renewing. Mari is in the process of trying to find a new company for liability and will sign on behalf of the church if time constraints do not allow for the clerk to sign any needed documents.
3. Annual Report to UFMCC: It is required of all churches and is usually done by 01/31 each year. It's an online 13-page informational report. We will be doing as a board prior to the March BoD meeting.
4. Zoom Annual vs Monthly Cost: Jackie received a notice that there would be a 20% savings if we paid our Zoom fee annually instead of monthly. The change has been made.
5. Membership Changes: none
6. March BoD Meeting: Jackie proposed changing the meeting start to 6:00. There were no objections so the next meeting will be March 15, 2021, 6:00PM.
7. Dex copier: Mari reported that we pay \$65 monthly for 2500 copies regardless of whether we make that many. We have been averaging 400 copies since switching to virtual worship. She had a call from our copier company agent, Angie, and inquired if we could put our lease on hold. With a yes answer, we decided to put the lease on hold for 10 months (December). Any copies needed would be made on the printer so that the only cost would be ink and that is minimal.

Motion to put the copier lease on hold for 10 months (through the middle of December), Mari/Sandy, Motion Passed

8. Outreach: Mari proposed resuming our monthly \$100 outreach donation. After discussion, the consensus was to give to agencies that feed the homeless, children and the elderly. Dining With Dignity and Council

On Aging's Meals on Wheels were two agencies mentioned and they will be the January and February Outreach donation, respectively.

The meeting ended at 8:00 PM after closing in prayer by Jackie.

Meeting Minutes submitted by Sandy Speck, Clerk