



Board Meeting Minutes

First Christian Church

September 21, 2024, 9:00 am

1) OPENING ITEMS

- a) Call to Order / Establish Quorum (09:04 am Ric Brightman, Rev. Patrick Crocker, Esther Devall, Zanté Garcia, Eric Hays-Strom, Scott Hays-Strom, Karen Holmes, Kamy McKenzie-Shaw, Donald Wilson)

Excused:

Absent: Phil Brooks

Present:

- b) Devotional Minute – Scott – In everything give thanks. Always good to give thanks because of the impact we make here and in the community.

- c) Approval of Agenda:

- d) Approval of Minutes:

- i) Board Meeting August 17, 2024

- e) Log email vote – No email votes.

2) COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Property Matters – Scott – No report

- b) Technology Committee – Eric

- The fee for technology support for events is \$20 per hour. An additional hour is included for setup and take down. As an example a two hour event will be charged \$60.
- We have been having problems with our current hosting site, Linode. The technology group recommends switching to a new hosting site, Hostinger. They charge \$11.99/month but there is an initial discount of \$3.99/month for up to 4 years if pre-paid. Eric moved we switch the website from Linode to Hostinger at \$3.99/month for 4 years, Esther seconded. Approved.
- Eric is still receiving complaints from people unable to hear the announcement and prayer requests. John is going to turn up the volume as loud as he can during the announcements and prayers.
- We needed to change our Comcast service plan because our original one is no longer offered. We can get additional savings if we add a mobile phone to the plan. Rev. Patrick would like to switch to a phone that is dedicated to FCC. The technology group will check the price for a mobile phone for Pastor use.

- c) Faith Action Committee – Ralph Holmes
- i) Our Mission Moment for October will be an introduction to the UCC “Join the Movement” justice opportunity we may be interested in joining. If the congregation wishes to participate in the program, a donation of \$3000 is requested to be used for materials, scholarships, and grants. The donation can be spread over multiple years. Ralph asked whether there are any funds available in 2025 and beyond to put toward this program.

The board stated Ralph should present the information to the congregation during the Mission Moment in October, so they know what the expectations are from the church and congregation. If the congregation wishes to participate, special giving offerings will be taken once or twice a year to cover the cost.

- d) Worship Committee Report – Zante
- The worship committee will order altar flowers for October.
 - We are borrowing woven hangings from Weaving for Justice in honor of Hispanic Month.
 - We will have Native American hangings in November in honor of Native American Heritage Month.
 - On November 3rd we will celebrate All Saints’ Day.

- i) Attendance Report – Eric
There is a steady drop off in attendance. The drop off appears to be in Facebook attendance. The in-house worship and zoom have remained the same. What to do with our dropping attendance? Perhaps have a weekly email the church doings for the coming week.

- e) Property Liaison – Karen
- i) Ministry Partner Meeting Next week.
 - ii) Karen will be out of town Monday – Wednesday, September 23 - 25. Scott and Rev. Patrick will be the contacts if there is a problem that can’t wait until Karen returns.

- f) Pastoral Support Committee – Donald – No report.
October 28th is the next meeting

- g) Pastor’s Report – Rev. Patrick Crocker – No report
- i) Connection among Working with DOC assemblies
 - ii) Interfaith Pride Service is planned for Thursday evening, October 3rd starting at 6:00.
 - iii) The UCC Committee on Ministry has an online course that is a requirement for Rev. Patrick to have ordained ministerial standing. It costs \$475 and runs for 6 weeks. Rev. Patrick can still work with the UCC without the ordained ministerial standing. Rev. Patrick prefers to be informal. The board agreed that Rev. Patrick can start informal then can revisit the official standing.

h) Treasurer's Report – Donald

The Finance committee met to create an initial budget for 2025. It is based on the spending incurred in January – August 2024 to plan the costs for 2025 personnel and utilities.

Assumptions:

- Inflation rate at 4%
- Raises of 5% starting January 1st
- September – December spending will follow January – August spending.
- The goal is to present the budget at the December Congregational Meeting.
- November board meeting is the best time to approve the budget and all agenda items for the Congregational Meeting. Donald is still projecting a positive outcome for the budget.

Concerns:

- The only building expense for the year is the atrium doors that were automated. Next year there may be more needs so the budget will need to be modified.

Building Use Request:

- Organization: Vulnerable Road Users of LC is requesting use of the lot at FCC for the Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims that will be celebrated November 17 from 3:30 – 6:30. It will mostly be outside but may use the bathrooms. The board okayed the use of our lot for the event.

i) Financial Secretary's Report – Eric

Below expectations – unpledged income helped – The pledges are still above 100%

i) Finance committee:

Discussed the budget – see under treasurer.

ii) Stewardship – Esther/Eric –

They started to plan the stewardship campaign. Esther asked Paul and Deb to provide skits, Eric will print out the pledge forms, and the Finance will create a pie chart for what was spent for last year.

j) Event Committee – Zanté

- We completed three months of hosting a booth promoting FCCLC at the Farmers and Craft Market. We are signed up for October and December as well.
- We are continuing the church potluck on the third Sunday of the month.
- FCCLC will have a booth at the Pride on the Plaza on October 5th at 5:00 – 10:00 pm. Scott and Eric Hays-Strom will setup, Zante Garcia and Debby Johnson will take down. Ralph and Karen Holmes will work the middle hours. Scott will buy more candy, and Zante ordered a lot of stickers for the event.
- Sing Out Las Cruces – broke plant stand pillar. They will replace it. In the meantime we need to be careful when placing flowers.

k) Security Team – Esther
See crisis Response Plan below 4ai

3) STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW – Scott

a) Facility Maintenance

i) Status: Building Utilization Committee Zanté & Scott

Need to decide whether to sell or stay. Plan congregational meetings starting in January. Need to get information together for the meeting.

4) OLD BUSINESS:

a) Policy and Procedure Report – Eric (Proposed and not approved)

i) Crisis Response Plan – Esther

Approved – accept with changes.

(1) Status: Business License for First Christian Church – the required link is still broken. Esther called and left a message with the city but hasn't heard back yet.

ii) Employee Handbook Policy/Procedure – Donald sent to Scott, who will send to the rest of the board.

b) Status: Office Administrator - Discussion about hiring and job description – We need to decide what the office administrator will be doing: social media, number of hours in the office, etc.

c) Status: HIV/AIDS Pantry needs – new computer, printer and software – Eric
The computer is installed along with a padlock for their file cabinet.

5) NEW BUSINESS:

a) Nomination Committee – Scott, Eric and Esther will be on the nominating committee.

Both Eric and Karen wish to resign their positions.

6) Announcements

a) Open floor – Eric will make an announcement during worship for the Food pantry. There is a list of items that they cannot accept for donation: opened items, items with expired dates, items in glass containers and foods needing refrigeration.

b) Eric wishes to have announcements submitted in advance. The prayers will still be verbally requested by individuals.

c) Next Board Meeting: October 19, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

7) ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 10:53.

Submitted by Karen Holmes,
Secretary