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**MINUTES**

**GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

**Monday August 20, 2018**

**Location: Room 109**

**Present:** Paul Arnold, Tim Creamer, Patrick Eaman, Win Irwin, Brad Miller, Dana Munk, Amy Preston, Bettegail Shively, Chip Wall, Jim Ayres, Kathleen Delp Higgins

**Absent:** Jean Reed Bahle, Carol Kooistra, Katie Mitchell

**Staff:** Jack Woller, Fred Wooden, Virginia Anzengruber

**Guests:** Kirsten Lundeen, Todd Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by the Chair, Win Irwin.

1. **Call to Community** Dana Munk

Reading from Pema Chodron about how we need to be as Fountain Streeters – meeting and greeting others. Every day is an opportunity for being welcoming.

1. **Congregant Comments** Guests Comments

None

1. **GB minutes – June 18, 2018\*** Paul Submit to File

***Motion*** by Win Irwin to submit the June minutes to file. Motion passed.

1. **150 Year Celebration Report** Todd

Todd Johnson presented information regarding the 150 Year Celebration. New items include:

• Lecture or Panel Discussion – “The Future of Liberal Religion in West Michigan”

• Catherine the Great Organ Concert

• FSC Craft Beer and party at brewery

• Luncheon Honoring Past and Present Staff

**Motion** by Kathy Higgins that the Governing Board host a luncheon for current and past staff. Seconded by Brad Miller. Discussion took place and motion was passed. Governing Board members will be appointed to coordinate the event.

Other recommendations were made regarding new and older events planned for 2019.

1. **Financials** Tim

Projected shortfall of just under $90,000 for end of year 2018. Goal was to have $250,000 uncommitted cash reserve by the end of 2018. Instead our uncommitted cash will be in the red.

Revenue enhancement options included:

• Roll dormant funds into operations ($19,000)

• Cost sharing of certain staff positions

• Eliminating a staff position

• Asking Foundation to cover the cost of utilities ($102,000)

• Selling the parking lot across the street from church (net $750,000) but one time net gain.

Tim met with the Foundation Board and they approved a loan of up to $110K for expected utilities. As it stands now, this loan would need to be paid back. GB might need to go back to them and ask the loan to be changed to a payment.

**Motion** by Tim Creamer that the dormant funds be rolled into 2018 operating funds. Seconded, discussed and passed.

**Motion** by Tim Creamer to ask the executive team to explore the sale of the parking lot and report back to the GB by Dec, 2018. Seconded by Chip Wall and passed. Discussion points:

• Original offer included the same number of parking spots would be granted to FSC in the new structure.

• There could be a two year construction period where parking options would need to be provided to handicapped individuals and those with other mobility issues.

• If we did sell the lot, it could be many years before there would be any construction.

• Selling the parking lot would be a temporary fix to our financial problems.

Jack warned the Governing Board that if they did not create a long-term plan for solving their financial situation, the results could be devastating for the church. We have some major projects (Tower repair and education areas of the church) that need to be funded and accomplished. We cannot continue with “business as usual” and focus mainly on the transition to a new minister during the next year or two. Jim Ayres volunteered to be involved in working on this long-term plan.

The Financial Report was approved.

1. **FSC Foundation Update** RandyAllaben

Currently the Foundation has $3,897,000 in assets. A year ago they had $3,600,000. In 2018 the Foundation contributed $180,000 to the operations budget. Randy wishes the Foundation could reach $20 million, which would produce $1 million for the operations of the church.

Foundation is finding interest in Socially Responsible Investments among the congregation. Those investments are as good as non SRIs regarding return on investment. Carol Townsend is working on this aspect for the Foundation.

1. **Executive Team Report**  Jack and Fred

An update was giving on the portico situation. Strategies considered include:

• Contracting with a security service

• Employing our own security person

• Working with GRPD and GRCC security staff to enforce our policy

• Working with Community Rebuilders

• Working with a Task Group Brad Miller is assembling

Problems were created when GR Police came one night and “enforced” the policy after FSC staff had just started conversations with GRPD about strategies. FSC staff had expected more communication before any enforcement was untaken by the police. We are now regrouping and working on the solution. Goal is to treat folks with compassion and empathy while enforcing our “Building Use” policy.

We have two finalists for the Education Director. Both have good credentials and qualifications. Hiring could happen soon.

Sunday morning visitors were discussed:

• Is the problem safety or discomfort?

• We have very few staff here on Sunday morning to monitor and assist

• Challenge of resources.

• Other downtown community churches are facing similar issues.

How to communicate these issues (hiring of education director, portico, visitors) to the congregation was discussed. Article in the Chimes was suggested but no decision was made on who would write the article.

1. **Nominating Group Report**  Brad

* 14 candidates have been selected.
* Petition candidates are free to apply.
* Ballots will be mailed to all church members.
* The vote will happen Oct. 21, 2018.
* 9 members will be elected and will comprise the Search Committee.

The advantages and disadvantages of holding the election for the Search Committee on a different date than the annual meeting were discussed. No decision was needed since the by-laws allow this type of meeting to be held without Governing Board action.

9. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21

**Upcoming GB meetings and events**:

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| Next OC/ET meeting | Monday, September 10, 5:30 -  6:30 p.m. | OC, Sr.Minister, Ex Dir  Board Room |
| Next GB meeting | Monday, September 17, 7:00-8:30 p.m. | GB, senior staff, Room 109 |

**Secretary Paul Arnold  
Scribe Todd Johnson**