

PLEASE NOTE: The February 4, 2019 FSC Governing Board meeting was originally scheduled for January 28, 2019 (the January 2019 FSC GB meeting), but rescheduled due to inclement weather.

MINUTES

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2019

Location: Room 109

Present: Paul Arnold, Jim Ayers, Jean Reed Bahle, Tim Creamer, Steven Depolo, Will Gallmeyer, Kathleen Delp Higgins, Win Irwin, Carol Kooistra, Kristin Mayer, Brad Miller, Katie Mitchell, Dana Munk, Amy Preston, Chip Wall

Absent: None

Staff: Jack Woller, W Fred Wooden

Guests: Chris Rowe, Todd Johnson, Sharon Morley

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by the Chair, Win Irwin

Call to Community

Chip Wall read the essay *The Last Ride*.

Congregant Comments

None

GB Minutes - November 12, 2018

Paul Arnold moved to submit the November minutes to file. Seconded by Win Irwin and passed.

Membership meetings from November and December were also approved.

150th Celebration Update

Todd Johnson presented summary report.

Kickoff celebration was a success with standing room only. Todd brought copies of the 150 Years of Service brochure and magnets which are for sale at \$2 apiece. Approximately 300 magnets have been sold so far.

Women's History at FSC Event is scheduled for Sunday March 10. Help is needed for choir. Men will be serving the meal after the service and 2-3 volunteers are needed for the baked potato bar and clean up.

Event to honor past and present staff is scheduled for Wednesday, April 17 at Meijer Gardens. Invitations are being prepared and 30 or more participants are expected. Jack Woller said that volunteers will be found to cover office so that staff can attend.

Gary Dorrien, foremost expert on liberal religion, will give a sermon and other speakers will be lined up.

Billboards will be going up this spring to celebrate 150 Years of Liberal Theology. Locations are yet to be determined. Another billboard is planned for the fall and will focus on contacting potential new members.

Carol Kooistra stated that she is writing a piece on David Rankin.

Tim Creamer spoke about the year-long social action projects. A potluck was held Sunday February 3 to support Family Promise and the Build Guild will be working on some projects and they are looking for volunteers.

Search Committe

Sharon Morley reported that the Search Committee will be using a five-step process which includes preparation, outreach, intake, selection and presentation.

Currently the Search Committee is in the "preparation" phase. The committee is reviewing 15 years of reports and recommendations from the Governing board and several working committees, including Oversight, Envisioning and Transition, as well as the findings of Connections groups, congregant surveys and Strategic Planning reports.

The next tasks include creating a survey for major stakeholder groups both inside and outside of FSC, seeking advice of previous Search Committees, looking into use of a facilitator or consultant to assist during the outreach and intake phases of the process. Also, the committee is seeking advice and comments from members of the congregation.

Tim Creamer asked if budget needs had been discussed yet. Sharon replied that they had not.

Financials

Tim Creamer stated that the December 2018 financials had ended with a deficit of \$32,000. This amount included the \$100,000 loan from the foundation.

The uncommitted cash on hand at beginning of the month was \$42,000. Ideally this should be \$250,000. It will be necessary to be vigilant about the cash balance and the budget.

Tim made some observations about the 2019 budget. The pledge revenue is budgeted at \$3,000 higher than last year. The Contribution of record of \$70,000 is based on past.

Laughfest will only be holding one event instead of 3 which is reflected in the Major Events budget of \$62,000. Non Laughfest events are expected to increase.

Event rentals were increased from \$20,000 to \$40,000. The Civic Theatre will be renting space on 3rd and 4th floor to hold their summer camp and traveling troop. This space is needed during construction at the Civic Theatre and will be a one-time event. They will not be using our parking lot.

Wedding budget is the same as last year.

Capital expenditures are budgeted \$155,387 and will be covered by the Capital Fund.

Carol Kooistra said that Melissa should be recognized for the great job she has done on the social hall.

The Finance Committee recommends that Jason not be replaced with a permanent chapel minister until the new Senior Minister has been hired. However, this is only a recommendation and the decision will be made by the Governing Board.

Money for interim chapel worship coordinator and interim minister are included in the budget throughout the end of 2019. A minister will not be needed for the summer months.

The board discussed that Fred Wooden and Win Irwin should speak to the chapel community to assure them that any decisions about hiring a permanent chapel minister will not be delayed for purely budgetary reasons.

The church's employee retirement contribution has been reduced from 10% to 5%. If budget goals are met or surpassed the situation will be reviewed at the end of the year.

Jack Woller stated that he is not in favor of the retirement percent reduction as he is concerned about the impact on staff morale. He also noted that the reduction doesn't include Fred Wooden as he has a separate contract.

Tim Creamer's stated that the Finance Committee is very unhappy about the reduction, but there is nowhere else that can be cut and he cannot propose a budget in the red.

Jack brought up the possibility of increasing Virginia Anzenbrugger to full time as he feels her position as vital to growth. He states that the number of listener's for Virginia's podcast exceeds expectations. Brad Miller asks how this translates to new members. Jack replied that he doesn't think membership is the solution as younger people think the idea is antiquated. He feels that secular events and social media is where he sees growth.

Kristin Mayer asked that the financial situation be communicated to the members more frequently so that it doesn't come as a surprise.

Tim Creamer moved that the 2019 Budget Draft U be approved. The motion was seconded, and the budget was approved.

Executive Team Report

There were no questions.

Selection of TJ Norris, FSC Foundation

Win Irwin moved to appoint of TJ Morris to the FSC Foundation Board, Tim Creamer seconded and the motion as approved.

Nominating Committee - 2019 Officers

On behalf of the Nominating Committee of 2018, Katie Mitchell moved to approve the following officers:

Win Irwin – Chair of the Governing Board

Chip Wall – Vice Chair

Amy Preston – Secretary

Tim Creamer – Treasurer

The motion approved.

Board Committee Selections

Win Irwin reported the following:

Nominating Committee members are Carol Kooistra - Chair, Chip Wall and Katie Mitchell, 3 more are needed.

Oversight Committee members are Dana Munk – chair, Steve Depolo, and Tim Creamer. Congregant members are Mike Grass, Steve Crandall, and Susan Wood

Finance Committee Members are - Tim Creamer, Chair, Jim Ayres, Amy Preston, and Paul Arnold. Kirsten Lundeen is congregant member and one more is needed.

Officers Committee - Win Irwin – Chair, Chip Wall, Amy Preston, Tim Creamer, and Jean Bahle is the delegate at large.

Board Retreat agenda item discussion

Win Irwin said that the new 501(c)(3) and the sale of parking lot should be discussed.

Tim Creamer suggested the agenda should include strategic planning and a review process for the governing board.

Carol Kooistra suggested the budget and the history of the church.

Jean Bahle commented that the Sunday morning book discussion group has been reading Liberal Legacy by Philip Buchen, a history of Fountain Street Church and anyone in the congregation would be welcome to join. She suggested that the board should discuss ways that the energy from the 150-year anniversary could be taken advantage of going into the future.

Brad Miller suggested the utilization of the social hall and building security.

Kristin Mayer suggested transparency and communication with the congregation.

Katie Mitchell suggested budget reality and exploring the role of the podcast and social media.

Jim Ayers wanted to discuss if the strategic plan is robust enough to grow the church.

Katie Mitchell wanted to complement Christopher Roe on his work in the education department.

Amy Preston wants to discuss ways to unify the various sections within the church and the possibility of another service during the week.

Win Irwin felt the two most important issues are 1) a path to long term financial sustainability and 2) a resolution to the Sunday social hall issue. Win referred to the amazing job that was done with the portico issue and believes we can find a solution to the social hall issue

New Business

None

Adjourn and De-brief

Meeting adjourned.