

Fountain Street Church Governing Board Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2023

Board Members Present: Cele Badgerow, Steve DePolo, Matthew Huizing, Shellie Jeffries, Geoff Kempter, Tony Lanninga, Kristen Loch, Kristin Mayer, Katie Mitchell, Amy Preston, Jon Spalding, James Taylor, Tim Creamer, John Willette, George Zuiderveen

Staff Present: Rev. Christopher Roe

Guests: Dan and Liz Bullock, Carole, Pat Eamon, Celia Clay Said, Buzz Wynbeek

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm.

2. Call to Community: Kristen L. read a poem (sent by Cele) called "Sometimes" by Sheenagh Pugh

3. Congregant Comments: None

4. FSC Thank You: Collective thank-you to the FSC Oratorio Choir for Considering Matthew Shepard concert.

5. Governing Board Minutes: Katie moved to accept the March minutes. Tim seconded, motion passed unanimously.

6. Finance: Tim updated:

Staff Changes-We are still working to get everything up to speed in the accounting for the church. We are getting close but we still have a little way to go. We should be up to speed by the end of this month and be closing the month of April in the first week of May.

Income Statement-The income statement now shows budgeted numbers. I don't know if the format you see tonight will be the format you see going forward. It's pretty busy. We want to present the information you need in a format you can easily understand. Any input will be welcome.

Items of Note-The Miscellaneous Income, Contributions of Record, Cash Plate and Event Rental line items need to be reviewed. We will review them and get them recategorized correctly. The Heat Expense and Electric Expense line items are higher than budget at this point. The time of year is a big part of that for the heat expense and possibly the electric expense. We will keep a close eye on these items. Personnel expenses also went up a little, mainly because of Rev. Jody.

Overall, we are in good shape at this point. There is nothing too alarming. We will be keeping a close eye on things as we go forward.

Amy asked how this process is going, as Cele and Tim absorb the work Melissa used to do. Tim thinks that by May they should be in good shape and moving smoothly.

Tim moved to accept the financial report. Kristen L. seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Stewardship: Tim updated:

Stewardship did not meet because of Spring Break. Will be meeting tomorrow (Apr. 18).

The Goods & Services auction is going for another couple of weeks. Please bid!

Pledge numbers are looking good. Amy asked if we've made the pledge number. Tim thinks we're at about \$560,000. It's been busy with people donating for the memorial concert.

George updated that the Foundation Board is hosting an evening event on Oct. 10, 2023 to thank people for donating. Food and drink will be provided, and it would be great to have lots of board members there.

8. Bell Tower/Building Update:

Amy updated that it was originally going to be 2 weeks to get the pricing from OAK and QE, but we didn't expect it to be that fast. Win and the committee are on top of it, and we should be getting a 50% of build number soon. We'll get any numbers to the board as we get them.

Last month we talked about setting up a committee to start organizing fundraising for the Bell Tower and working with the Foundation Board. We have reached out to someone to chair, and they had a few conditions. Still waiting on some of that info and will hopefully move soon on getting the committee formed

9. Staff Report:

Rev. Christopher updated:

Going to pass something out about what's in his head and heart right now. There's a lot of energy, but we're also scrambling to do all the things that need to be done. Proposing that we focus on 4 pillars:

1. Worship
2. Learning
3. Belonging
4. Social Justice

Board approved an Associate Minister call, but RCR doesn't think we're ready to pull someone into things right now. RCR wants to bring Rev. Jody in as an Interim Assoc Minister. We need a membership program, and that's what she travels around the state doing.

RCR provided a handout with details on the 4 pillars and ideas... just ideas. Thoughts on having one Sunday service, but not just smashing the two together. Example is the 5th Sunday brunches. This needs intention behind it, and may have different music and speakers than we're used to.

Rev. Jody would work on membership and belonging, creating teams to oversee these, working with existing structures. Also, we have an entire database section that we're not using but would be very helpful.

Thoughts on reimagining Character School, the language we use and the intention behind it.

RCR would steward social justice and work with the Social Justice team.

On a personal note, RCR is feeling burnout, even as things are improving here. Limited staff for all we have to do. Whether it's pushback or budget concerns, it's been harder. He expected this, but wants to put that on the board's radar. Urgency is part of the issue, and that's not fully misplaced, but it's also part of supremacy culture. RCR is trying to see how he can push back against some of the ongoing problematic behavior.

Amy emphasized the need to follow up urgency and ideas with offers to help.

Guest Celia asked if she could speak - Duncan used to respond to people with ideas with "That's great! Go and do it!"

Geoff expressed appreciation to RCR and said we want to be sure he gets the support he needs. Assume this has been put together with Rev. Jody's input, and ideally we'd have her around as much as RCR needs.

Katie Bush (education/youth interim) contributed a lot to education. She didn't simply fill a space, but she had great feedback. Now is the time to take a breath and not just shove someone in the position, but really think of what we need. Same with music. It's about being more intentional. It doesn't make sense to invest in an infrastructure that isn't supported.

Jim said to not take this all on as Senior Minister, and connected it to his own experience with the Special Olympics. Everyone has to work together to save it.

George asked if RCR had a plan to move away from burnout. Yes, Apr. 30 brunch church is one way. George said that a plan to avoid burnout is so important.

Amy reiterated that we're here to help with whatever. George echoed this.

RCR said what we want is vitality and flourishing. And we're seeing that. But we also need intention, and that's where Rev. Jody will be super helpful.

10. Old Business and Announcements:

Bell Tower Legal Assistance

Amy reminded that last month we'd heard another area church had a tower issue they're challenging the city about. George updated that someone from LaGrave, which bought the empty church next door, said they've been trying various things for the building. They realized there is no legal precedent for not going by the historical commission's "law." They're doing fundraising in a way that includes service to the community, which may bring grant access.

Takeaway is that we probably can't have a legal case either. So we'll have to take this on by ourselves. Amy thinks, again, this waits until we have actual numbers to discuss.

Samaritas Lease

Amy updated she and Christopher looked into this. Are they interested in returning, perhaps with some updated provisions? We clarified the modified, increased rent with them. Still wondering if the number we're looking at is too low, mainly because of utilities, as well as upkeep and maintenance. They don't have students yet, but we have a little time as they'll have a couple months of lead time after getting that number.

Does the board want leadership to discuss updated rates etc with Samaritas? Tim asked if any actual numbers were discussed. Amy said it's tough without utility meters. Considering this from various angles.

Jon asked if we looked at past utilities? It's difficult because of Covid and meter systems and other factors.

Samaritas didn't use the elevator, as they are required to have everything recorded. They still have a lot of equipment up on the third and fourth floor, including space heaters. That's something we'd have to address in a lease. They're fine with \$2500 (up from \$1700), and are aware that we may have to bump up further.

Kristen L. suggested that the Finance Committee look into this. There's got to be a formula for figuring out what energy they actually use.

Kristen L. moved to investigate what rent would be appropriate and report back to the board with a proposed lease. Jon seconded.

Tim raised the concern of staffing. RCR said they didn't typically need much. Jamie might be a good point person. Kristen L. said maybe custodial services are their job or extra.

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Fair

Amy said this coincides with the April Breakfast Church (4/30/2023).

Kristen L. said this is also a time to welcome new people etc. Idea to have committees present to share what they do and invite people to join. An email will go out to committees to encourage them to participate. She asked that interested groups send her an email at kristen.loch@gmail.com

Discussion on making this a good welcome for new members. RCR said there will be some short, structured stuff, but also time for conversation.

11. New Business:

OffComm Actions since last GB meeting:

With an installed Senior Minister, the OffComm has less to do btw meetings. We discussed Rev. Jody as mentioned earlier. Also been trying to work on the elevator situation. Jon has been heading that up and we're making some headway. Not ready to give any guarantees yet. Waiting on one part of the elevator.

Geoff asked if this is an especially rare elevator. Jon explained that elevators are hard to get parts for in general, and it's hard to find companies who will do the work. Hopefully we have the part by Friday, but then the challenge is getting someone in to do it. Depends on what team first finishes previous jobs and is available.

Pride

Jon updated that he and Chip have secured the booth and will have the canopy up. Looking for volunteers who can sit at the booth on Sat. June 17th. Booths wrap up around 6 or 7pm. We'll be between the family area and the party area (very appropriate). We'll have water and a fun backdrop, a QR code, maybe diversity stakes. Maybe get Fountain Club involved.

12. Congregant Comments: Celia Clay Sayid gave a little backstory of being raised in Park Church but her parents went to FSC. She moved abroad for many years, but came back and was part of starting the Duncan Littlefair Great Speakers Series. Memories of Magoo the dog (her brother's dog) who came into church. She supported RCR's move to delegate to other people. Suggested doing things to grow the congregation and get more kids in Character School. She has lots of ideas and wants to get involved again.

13. Adjourn: Tim moved to adjourn. Geoff seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:19pm.