

Fountain Street Church Governing Board Meeting Minutes May 15, 2023

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

Board Members Absent: Shellie Jeffries, Tony Laninga

Staff Present: Rev. Christopher Roe

Guests: Meredith Bradley, Carole, Pat Eamon, Sherron Collins, Chip Wall

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm.

2. Call to Community: George read a poem called "Today"

3. Congregant Comments: None

4. FSC Thank Yous: Katie thanked Katie Bush, who will be finishing her time as interim education director.

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

6. Finance: Tim updated:

We've had a few surprises, such as some April deposits showing up in May. We also had 2 electric bills in March but none in April. Discussion of some oil and refrigerant leakage making maintenance costs higher, and how that might impact the arrangement with Samaritas.

Melissa Hoezee has a new job, so her severance will be finished.

Jon asked if we already paid for the elevator. We have paid the ½ down

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

Kristin M. thanked Tim and Cele for their work on this.

7. Stewardship: Tim updated:

With database migration, we don't have a solid update right now. Although, we know we're doing well. Pledges are coming in, and that data will be included in the migration.

George asked about the G&S auction - brought in about \$6K.

8. Bell Tower/Building Update:

Amy updated that we'd hoped for more of an update, but the committee is still awaiting the numbers from OAK and Quinn Evans. Communication last week and they indicated they anticipate another week or two. We think there are some unique aspects that take extra effort and logistics planning. Unusual things keep coming up.

9. Staff Report:

Rev. Christopher updated:

Some staff will be transitioning into new titles. Laurie will be the Director for Business and Finance, Kayle will be the Director for Events and Programs, and Katie will be the Interim Administrative Assistant until September.

Updating database Planning Center, which we've been using since 2020, and we're finally getting into it. Kayle will get behind this and organize that work flow. There was no donor management happening, but Planning Center needs to do this because we need a record.

We also need to phase things out. May 22-26, the office is closing. We need uninterrupted work time to make this transition. We will still accept calls for emergencies and pastoral stuff, but Laurie won't be taking calls for clerical things.

Kristen asked if we need to announce anything for the FF that week, if it won't go out. RCR said we're changing that anyway, so we might roll it out at this point. Also having a more seasonally based communication.

Kayle, Katie, and Laurie are phenomenally committed to FSC and making things run better. They really care and want things to work.

Geoff talked about how amazing Kayle is and all the things they do.

George said the Foundation Board suggested a staff appreciation day, which should come from the Governing Board, not the Foundation Board. We should think about this.

RCR continued that this would be a good idea, and thanked George for remembering that.

Amy asked RCR if he might ask the Staff what they might like? Next breakfast church? We don't want to drop this.

George said before Summer - maybe in the next month, as we're done June 25th.

Geoff said that in the corporate world, this often happens as a dinner or a celebration, perhaps with gifts. Do we reach out to the committee for donations? Kristen L. said nonprofits have done things like this as well, and it needs to feel real and substantial. Kristin M. said we also don't want to do this in a way that makes more work for the staff. Perhaps a catered lunch?

RCR said we're switching to the summer schedule (not programming) starting Memorial Day weekend. So, one, 10am service, most likely in the Sanctuary. Kristin M. asked about childcare—RCR said we're covered, though the hours are truncated.

Amy said breakfast church went well, standing room only. Good participation from the Committee Fair as well. Jon said we had a lot of people coming in at 11am instead of 10am, so we'll have to be ready for that.

Kristin M. asked how RCR is doing. He said tired.

10. Old Business and Announcements:

Church Security

Amy said - After the Happy Heretic stuff, ppl are asking if we're safe. We always want to welcome that mention - having them ask about stuff we've already done is better than not getting super helpful questions. This is a concern for all of us, and we deal with it way more than people realize at the OffComm level. For example, we talked about the issues within days of the Easter Service. But, we can't get too into details of security protocol because that would defeat the purpose.

For what it's worth, we've had a far greater threat to security than this online uproar. So we are on top of this, but we can't share everything. We stay alert, ushers keep an eye on things, etc. Please talk to us with any concerns. FSC will attract attention, and we get calls on a regular basis that we consider normal. Our tolerance level might be higher than others.

Geoff asked how he should answer such questions then. Basically what we've said here.

Kristen said and this is one more reason that we need to be welcoming. If you see someone you don't know - talk to them!

Jim said we need to be careful with info, but we need to be clear that we're on top of this. Might be good to review emergency plans that we had in place before Covid. But without being hysterical. Katie said also as a parent it would be helpful to know where to connect later if we need to evacuate.

George said that we as a board haven't said anything to the congregation. Maybe we should reassure without sharing details. Discussion on email vs mention in the service. Cele said we need to say we're not just talking... can't share details for safety, but assure them of concrete steps. George said it's less about what we say and more about saying -something-. Kristen L. said we don't want to create a fear campaign. Geoff said email might be the way to get it to everyone who deserves to hear it.

Jim asked if RCR feels protected enough. RCR said he's good. But he's been managing this for a month already...

Elevator

Jon updated that there was some scramble with Bruce not being able to do the electrical work but now he probably can. We should have a working elevator within a week or so.

Samaritas Lease

Amy said, part of monitoring HVAC... They are working on their funding process and we're working on finalizing the details. If they can get students, they're looking at July. Kristen asked if they need a certain amount of time before bringing students in, in terms of the contract. Amy said she updated them on the leaky HVAC, but they have time. Geoff said put a meter on the circuits that they use...? Although we might not be able to do that. We'll have to analyze the utilities after they get in here.

Pride

Jon updated that we have plenty of volunteers to staff the table. Still want Governing Board members to come out to support. Chip and Jon will set up at 9am. Tim's gonna come later. We'll have giveaways, photo opp. We're in a prime location. Pride Sunday at FSC is on June 4.

11. New Business:

OffComm actions since last GB meeting:

We approved listing some gifted Lake Michigan property for sale. Not sure if we've had interest, that will likely be happening with the Foundation Board. Tim said Mike May mentioned there may have been an interest, but they weren't offering enough. It's in a gated community in the Montague area. Not lake front, but has lake access.

Tim asked where we stand with the Capital Campaign. Amy said she talked to someone about being chair, but they wanted to know numbers before committing. We have about 5 ppl who are going to start meeting about this, regardless of having a number and a chair. Discussions have started, but nothing official. Foundation Board asked how money should be handled. We think a separate account, but do we

want to put it somewhere where it might earn money? George asked also, if someone donates a lot, do they get the status with the Foundation...? Legacy, etc? Amy said we'll need to look at the terms and conditions.

12. Congregant Comments: None. Amy thanked our guests for being here.

13. Adjourn: Cele moved to adjourn. Geoff seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.