

Fountain Street Church Governing Board Meeting Draft Minutes
June 21, 2021

Board Members Present: Steve DePolo, Will Gallmeyer, Kathleen Higgins, Win Irwin, Shellie Jeffries, Geoff Kempter, Kristen Loch, Kristin Mayer, Brad Miller, Katie Mitchell, Amy Preston, James Taylor, Chip Wall, George Zuiderveen

Staff Present: Rev. Christopher Roe, Melissa Hoezee

Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm.

Financial Committee: Win Irwin reported. Not much has changed. We are positive budget at \$68K. Balance sheet continues to be good, with \$122,497 cash reserves (not including \$75K PPP loan). The Committee reviewed hiring an administrative assistant, which was recommended by ET, and supported that recommendation. The committee went forward with purchasing cyber insurance. Pledges are coming in a head of schedule

Amy Preston moved to accept the financial report. James Taylor seconded. The motion passed.

Choir Board: Gary Eberle reported. Choir has been holding together for the last 15 months, meeting over Zoom twice a month. The Board released money from the Choir Fund to support music during Sunday services. Technical problems proved to be insurmountable for singing together virtually and efforts to create a parking lot choir didn't work out. The choir underwrote the Christmas concert by Jonathon Tuuk which has over 500 views. The board meets with the ministry team via Zoom. Earlier this year gave up the idea of a virtual choir, but developed another way of singing together. 15-20 people have been meeting regularly. This Thursday night the choir will be meeting in person, outdoors, with a keyboard, accompanied by Marilyn Ossentjuk and plan to meet again in July. They have been talking with Rev. Christopher about hiring a choral director and/or music director and hope to have a choral director in place by labor day so they can have a choir camp and be ready to sing during fall services. They received a gift from Hudsonville Reformed Church of 60 white choir robes. They are looking forward to the coming church year and to singing together on Thursday. Choir is vibrant and alive. Chip: Thanks to Gary for keeping the choir together.

Executive Team Report. Rev. Christopher Roe reported. It's now all hands on deck in preparing to open in September, keeping in mind the need to be mindful of the budget for the fall and carrying into 2022. Rev. C is looking at how to sustainably staff musicians for church services. All decisions are geared towards helping people realize that they matter at FSC.

Melissa: on vacation from July 2 -10.

Chip: Appreciates how well all the preparation for hiring the Administrative assistant was done. Hats off!

New business: Brad Miller introduced 3 motions.

Motion 1: Fountain Street Church Support for Black Lives Matter

Fountain Street Church (FSC) recognizes that racism can be an institutionalized pattern reaching far beyond any single incident or person.

Black Lives Matter is a movement and a stance in response to the reality that the United States was built on a legacy of slavery, racism, and oppression that has remnants today that take new, ever-changing forms. To say that “black lives matter” doesn’t mean that black lives are more important than other lives, or that all lives don’t matter. Any systemic devaluing of Black lives, however, calls upon us to bear witness, even as we acknowledge that oppression takes many intersecting forms.

FSC has joined with All Souls Community Church of West Michigan, Plymouth United Church of Christ, and Westminster Presbyterian Church in public witness at the Rosa Parks Statue on the corner of Monroe Avenue and Monroe Center for a monthly Black Lives Matter Vigil. We meet during the lunch hour from 12:15 pm to 12:45 pm on the first Wednesday of each month. All are welcome to join. The goal is to support the Black Lives Matter Movement and build partnerships in the community with others who are also seeking racial justice and equality.

Seconded by Geoff Kempter. The motion passed.

Motion 2: I move that Fountain Street Church endorse a Declaration of a Climate Emergency by the City of Grand Rapids.

Fountain Street Church Endorses a City of Grand Rapids’ Declaration of a Climate Emergency

Whereas human actions have altered the planet’s ecosystems to a point that catastrophically threatens environmental and social stability; and

Whereas the City of Grand Rapids, Michigan has rightly been an outspoken leader for many years on sustainability (cities occupy less than 2% of the world’s landmass yet they consume 78% of the world’s energy and account for more than 60% of global greenhouse gas emissions according to the United Nations); be it resolved that

Fountain Street Church, located within the City of Grand Rapids, urges local government leaders to declare a climate emergency, prepare to protect the vulnerable residents expected to be impacted, and accelerate engagement with the entire Grand Rapids community on specific steps toward carbon neutrality and zero greenhouse gas emissions.

Following discussion, the Motion was withdrawn and will be addressed by the Issues Advisory Committee (see below).

Motion 3: I move that an Issues Advisory Committee be created for the following purposes:

Fountain Street Church Establishment of an Issues Advisory Committee

Whereas so much is happening in the world today that could benefit by a stronger voice from Fountain Street Church, and

Whereas most communication today is now instantaneous, making absence from important public discourse more noticeable than ever before to anyone attempting to gauge the relevancy of an organization,

Be it hereby resolved that the Governing Board create an Issues Advisory Committee to expedite evaluation of various issues and allow for a quicker reaction by the church through its Senior Minister to requests for church position statements or endorsements of causes, petitions, and other initiatives consistent with our core values with the exception of support for or opposition to candidates for public office.

The Issues Advisory Committee shall consist of the Senior Minister, Governing Board Chair and Vice-Chair, Social Action Committee Chair and Vice-Chair, and any others appointed by the Governing Board. Matters for consideration may be brought to the Issues Advisory Committee by that committee's members, Governing Board members, FSC church members, or members of the community. Statements for the website can be posted and communications with media conducted by the Senior Minister with the benefit of this congregant involvement and expertise.

Seconded by Geoff. The motion passed.

Geoff moved to adjourn the meeting, Kathy seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.