

College Church University Avenue
2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes #9
November 21, 2024 -- 6:30 PM

Board members present: Laura Allen, Tyler Bontrager, Charles Carrigan, Tony Fightmaster, Rachel Greenawalt, Russ Lovett, Jeanette Martinson, Aaron Meyer, Kyle Olney, Don Reddick, Amy Smith, and John Thomson.

Staff members present: Pastor Jen Johnson, Tim Mercer, Pastor Mark Quanstrom,

1. DEVOTIONS/PRAAYER

A. Pastor Mark led a devotion from Genesis 28:10-17 “Jacob’s Ladder.”

2. ADMINISTRATION

A. **ACTION:** Motion to approve the agenda with the addition of these points: 2d: New families, 2e: Local licenses, and 6b: New Van. (John Thomson/Rachel Greenawalt)

B. Charles Carrigan reviewed the minutes from the October meeting, highlighting the action points. **ACTION:** Motion to approve the minutes from the October meeting. (Aaron Meyer/Don Reddick)

C. **ACTION:** New Members were approved: Sharon Brantley (Online) Transfer, Catalina Fernald (Statement), John Ngwe (Statement), Lowell Thill (Transfer), Spencer and Michele Tong (Statement), Karen Knudson (Transfer), Jane and Bob Turrill (Statement), Alex Tsirikos (Statement). (Tony Fightmaster/Kyle Olney)

D. Pastor Mark reviewed the list of new families and noted that we still need contact information for some of them. He asked board members in the meeting if they could help with that.

E. Local Minister’s licenses were recommended for Maria Gondos and Nicole Pearson by the Interview Committee, including Rachel Greenawalt, Charles Carrigan, Pastor Jen, and Pastor Mark. **ACTION:** The committee approved the motion and seconded by Tyler Bontrager. Motion passed.

3. FINANCE

A. Tim Mercer reviewed the October finance and budget reports for the church finances through October 31, 2024. He also shared that he has reimbursed Pastor Joel and Pastor Mark as per the board’s recommendations from last month’s meeting.

B. A housing allowance was approved for Pastor Julie Branstetter for \$1,000 per month to begin in January 2025. **ACTION:** A motion was made to approve this amount. (Russ Lovett/Laura Allen)

**At this point in our meeting, Scott Whalen, the new District Superintendent, brought greetings to our church board. In those greetings, he shared how he was doing in his new role and noted that when he is at College Church for service, he counts it as a safe place where he feels like he can take a breath. **

4. NMI

A. Amy Smith reported on the plans for the upcoming Christmas Care Giving Projects for this year. She noted that the Thank Offering will be incorporated with this giving opportunity. Our Council chose specific projects that include local, regional, and global opportunities. A written letter with all the details has been sent to the congregation.

B. Amy reported on the upcoming Missions weekend that is taking place on February 22-23, 2025.

5. BUILDING AND PROPERTY

A. Pastor Jen requests the board to consider approving the expense of replacing the carpet in the CLC with a combination of carpet and vinyl. Vinyl tiles would be put where food buffet tables usually go on the kitchen end of the room and along the sides to provide a pathway to the exterior doors. The bid that was provided by John Fitts at FCA includes a donation. The expense would

be \$37,886 and can be taken from our unreserved account. **ACTION:** A motion was made to approve this expense. (John Thomson/Charles Carrigan). Motion passed unanimously. The discussion for replacing the office carpet was tabled until January.

- B. Mark shared the story about the donation from the Worship at the Center congregation would like to put towards a 15-passenger van for the church. This will provide a better opportunity for folks to be picked up for the church service. Through offerings and their Bible reading program, Pastor Jesse and Christine kept the donations in a fund totaling \$7,000, which they saved. The board discussed the options and would like to pursue trying to sell the church bus we have. Pastor Jen and John Thomson will follow up with Midwest Transit.

6. PASTOR'S REPORT

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Pastor Mark continued the discussion from last month concerning increasing the full-time staff salaries for January 2025. He provided the board with the current salaries and the proposed salary documents to reference during the discussion. According to the proposal, full-time and pastoral staff salaries will reflect an approx. 3.1% COLA adjustment or more for January 2025. Pastor Mark and Pastor Jen were excused from the room for this discussion. They were informed later by the church board secretary, Charles, of what the board decided. Salary Adjustments to commence on January 1, 2025, are on the attached Salaries and Benefits Document. The changes were voted on and passed with a unanimous vote. (Chuck Carrigan)

7. CALENDAR

- A. Upcoming Board meeting dates: December 14 (Saturday) at 6 PM, Christmas Dinner. **NOTE** the change of date (again!) for the Christmas Dinner.

8. BENEDICTION

Pastor Mark closed the meeting with prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Pastor Jen Johnson