

**Minutes
Board Meeting
First Christian Church
August 20, 2022, 10:00 am**

1) OPENING ITEMS

- a) Call to Order / Establish Quorum (10:03 am: Ric Brightman, Esther Devall, Eric Hays-Strom, Scott Hays-Strom, Karen Holmes, Kamy McKenzie-Shaw, Sue Stefford-Grey, Bruce Weber, Paul Whitacre)
Excused: Bethany Meier-Evans
Absent
Present: Aletta Wilson
- b) Devotional Minute given by Scott – based on a reading he had about worry, fear, and perfect love. The opposite of love is fear. A perfect love as Christians like us as FCC drives out fear and perfect fear drives out love.
- c) Approval of Agenda: Moved by Esther as amended, seconded by Eric
- d) Approval of Minutes – Board Meeting July 16, 2022. No changes
- e) Log email vote –
 - i) Emergency Repairs – Vote Requested

2) COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Technology Committee – Eric/Bruce: Internet – A new bridge was installed Tuesday and now there is a strong signal in the sanctuary.
- b) Faith Action Committee – Paul W
- c) Faith Development Committee – No report until further notice
- d) Worship Committee – Eric has speakers set through Sept 1st. If needed he will request others volunteer or ask those who have already spoken to speak again.
 - i) Attendance Report – Eric
- e) Property Matters – Paul W
 - i) Other Electrical Installation – done.
When doing the fixes, other electrical issues were found that will need to be fixed.
 - ii) Evaporative Cooler for Rachael Lease Space – done
 - iii) Evaporative Cooler for Rear of Sanctuary – done
 - iv) Lights in Backyard Farms leased rooms. Paul W. has received the light fixtures, but the lens cover was broken on one of two lights. He received two replacement light fixtures, but those covers were also broken. Paul is trying to get cover replacements. The company doesn't want the lights sent back so we will have two additional lights we can use.
 - v) Rachael from backyard farms is unable to get the property she had planned to get in January. She will need to use the leased rooms for the dehydrators longer than expected. Her contract stated we will discuss the longer use of the facilities for the dehydrators if extended after December. Bruce will also check the electric usage next month to verify whether we need to request more rent from Backyard Farms to

cover the additional electricity usage. The July electric bill was high, but it was a hot month and there was more air conditioning used so can't determine the amount used by Backyard Farms.

- vi) Parlor Roof Repair – Cracks were found on the roof; we may need to replace the roof. If the roof is patched it is estimated to last 2-3 years. Bruce received estimates for \$1700 and \$2300 to repair the roof.
Eric made a motion to accept the \$1700 bid for repair, Esther second, approved.
Bruce will follow up with Charles Walton - Engineered Solutions Roofing to make the repairs.
- vii) Bee Update – Jerry Romero (church sexton) sends nightly reports to Bruce on the status of the bees in the sanctuary. Jerry checks every evening around 9:00 and vacuums the floor to remove the dead bees. The bees are coming into the sanctuary in the late afternoon or early evening.
 - (1) Bruce had a conversation about the bees with Rachael Ryan of Backyard Farms. He was given the contact Josh Meier from beekeepers association, who will come to check if we can do anything to alleviate the bee problem.
 - (2) It was suggested to have Benadryl available in first aid kit in case for possible bee stings.

f) Property Liaison – Karen

g) Pastoral Relations Committee – Esther

h) Pastor's Report – No report until further notice

i) Treasurer's Report – Bruce

j) Financial Secretary's Report – Eric

i) Stewardship – Esther – no report

There was lower giving in July. May be caused by summer slump or the pastor not speaking. Eric will check the August financials to see if it is better. If needed, Esther will give a follow-up talk regarding the fulfillment of our pledges.

3) OLD BUSINESS:

a) Follow up on Retreat ideas:

i) Convert Bridal Room to Meditation Space - Eric/Scott

ii) Bulletin board in Atrium – Karen – Plan to work on it in September – after church – then finish on Monday.

b) Status of Jon Kessler boxes – Scott: Removing August 11 – 13. Jonathon made excuse for August and said he will pick up in September. Bruce said he received a phone call from Jon asking about furniture he has stored, which we do not have. He said he will come in February or March to pick up the items. The group agreed that is too late. It has been in storage for 5 years and he needs to pick up the items. Eric said he will contact Jon and state if he can't pick up the items Jon will need to give a credit card number and the items will be placed into a storage locker.

c) Addressing COVID concerns

i) Masks required for all FCC functions

Eric made a motion to change mask usage to "requested" not "required", Kamy seconded, approved

- d) Mission/Vision Statement Congregation Education – Scott – will introduce tomorrow at congregation meeting
- e) Strategic Planning – Scott: next meeting is Sept 10th at 10:00. The planning sessions will be scheduled for the 1st Saturday of every month until completed.
- f) PrideFest Booth, October 1, 2022 – Scott: We need to provide our own shade, table, water, etc. Setup is at 4:00 and the event runs from 5:00 – 10:00 pm. Volunteers are needed at the booth.

4) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Street-side signage – Bruce: Father Ron discussed the current sign with Bruce. It is not visible from the street and doesn't include other businesses that are on site. Is it possible to remove the sign then get a new sign with all businesses on the property. First, we need to find out where the sign can be placed per the Las Cruces city codes. Bruce will follow up with the company that fixed the current sign for a contact to remove the sign then get estimates for the sign removal. When we look at a new sign, we will include the businesses that are on site. We don't want to get an electric powered light sign because of our electric issues. It is suggested to get a solar powered sign. This is an expense for next year and may not occur because of the status of us remaining in the building.
- b) Ring Account – The ring account is set up under Bethany's email and credit card. The account is going to be changed to the church's email and credit card. John S. requested an additional doorbell in the front of the building. This will help with business deliveries and also security (window was broken next to the door.) The cost is \$150 – \$200 for the doorbell and no additional monthly charges for the usage. Another was requested for the mailbox. Instead we will get a locking mailbox for the business. The tenants will be assigned Suite numbers.
Esther moved to approve the purchase of another doorbell, Kamy second, approve
- c) Maintenance Approval – Esther moves to allow up to \$500 for a single purchase for property maintenance without seeking board approval, Ric seconded, approved
- d) Executive Session – Private meeting from 11:18 – 11:47.

5) ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Open floor –
 - i) Sue - Raine's birthday today – Request we send greeting.
- b) Ric - SWUCC – Annual Meeting will be held in El Paso sometime between March and May 2023. We need members to attend and show the attendants Las Cruces as well.
- c) Ric – members approached him to start Bible study. Ric asked Rev. Bethany for approval, will start at 9:00, prior to worship on Sunday mornings. Kamy was doing a bible study after worship. Ric and Kamy will work together to start the 9:00 bible study.
- d) Til sent a letter stating she will postpone the Cathedral on Fire book study, which was planned to start in the fall. Instead she is planning on small discussions on Sundays at

9:00 with breakfast. A suggestion was made for the two 9:00 groups to have breakfast together then break into separate groups.

e) Next Board Meeting: September 17, 2022, 10 a.m.

6) Adjournment: Scott moved to adjourn the meeting.
Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Submitted by Karen Holmes,
Secretary