

First Christian Church
Congregational Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2022 – Following the Worship Service

The meeting was called to order by board president, Scott Hays-Strom at 11:15. The number of members attending was 27 (present in the sanctuary and via zoom) – the quorum is met for the meeting.

Status Update on Rev. Bethany Meier-Evans given by Esther Duvall, representative of the Pastor Relationship Committee.

- Rev. Bethany started her leave of absence on July 5th
- Unfortunately, it hasn't been restful because of issues with the insurance company. She is finally approved for coverage and will receive benefits on a monthly basis.
- Rev. Bethany is receiving treatment and has a goal to return to church fully restored and ready to serve us as we deserve. She is grateful for the cards, emails, and care packages wishing her well. We can send her encouragement on the website [caringbridge.org](https://www.caringbridge.org). Here is the link to her page <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/bethanymeier-evans>
- While Rev. Bethany is on leave, the church is not paying her salary. However, the church is obliged to pay her benefits.
- The Southwest Association of the United Church of Christ is sending us \$1000 per month for three months to assist in pulpit supply. For the last 5 weeks the members of the church have been managing the pastor's duties. Yesterday the board agreed to the need for a person to lead the worship, give pastoral care and attend the committee meetings. With the assistance of Rev. Dr. Bill Lyons, a committee of past-president, president, and president-elect will search, interview and negotiate a contract for an extended term supply pastor.
 - Past president: Sue Stefford-Grey. She may not be able to attend all meetings. Paul Cook the previous past president has agreed to be an alternate
 - President – Scott Hays-Strom
 - President-Elect – Esther Duvall

Church's Finance Update given by Bruce Weber, Treasurer

Bruce gave a summary of our finances for the year – through July 31, 2022. At this point in time we have a surplus and are doing well. However, there are additional expenses from property maintenance and the rise in inflation.

FCC Financial Summary January 1 - July 31, 2022

INCOME		EXPENSE	
Pledged Offerings	62,433	Salaries + Benefits	54,880
Non-Pledged Offerings	6,708	FICA Match + WorkersComp	1,606
Escrowed for rest of year	-8,609	Administration (copier, stamps)	1,478
Loose Plate	794	Property (utilities, insurance)	14,316
Rents	11,680	Mebership, Advertising, Misc	2,096
Special Pastoral Support Gift	8,000	Outreach	3,007
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Total Income - 7 Months	81,006	Total Expenses - 7 Months	77,383
SURPLUS	3,623		

Note - Not included in above:

Special Giving: Ukraine, SHAS...	4,045
Gifts to Maintenance Fund	7,739
Maintenance Fund Expenses	10,174

The introduction of a new Mission/Vision Statement given by Scott Hays-Strom

The Mission Statement and Vision Statement were displayed to the congregation. There were meetings in the past to create these statements. The Mission Statement describes who we are, and the Vision Statement describe how we will fulfill our mission. Scott is leading strategy planning meetings. The first was held August 6th and the next is scheduled for September 10th. We plan to have strategy meetings on the first Saturday of the month. All members are encouraged to attend and help with our new Mission and Vision Statements.

Scott Hays-Strom made a motion to accept the Mission and Vision Statements for the next five years. Seconded by Sandy Weber.

Esther Duvall gave thanks to Scott for all the work he has done on the statements
The vote was taken and unanimously approved.

	<h3>The Mission of First Christian Church, Las Cruces:</h3> <p>We are here to help people know God, find freedom, discover their purpose, and make a difference in the community, near and far.</p>
	<h3>FCC LC Vision Statement</h3> <p>First Christian Church believes that everyone matters to God. Therefore, we welcome all who need to find hope and healing. We seek justice for those without a voice. We are building an engaged, passionate, and spiritually diverse community. We are devoted to one another, and all creation. We help each other grow and celebrate the joyful witness of God's all-inclusive love through Christ Jesus.</p>

The congregational meeting closed at 11:32.

Submitted by Karen Holmes,
Secretary