

## **Fountain Street Church Governing Board Meeting Minutes November 27, 2023**

**Board Members Present:** Cele Badgerow, Steve DePolo, Matthew Huizing (left part way through), Shellie Jeffries, Geoff Kempter, Tony Lanninga, Kristen Loch, Kristin Mayer, Katie Mitchell, Amy Preston, James Taylor, John Willette, Spalding Wall, George Zuiderveen

**Board Members Absent:** Tim Creamer

**Staff Present:** Rev. Christopher Roe

**Guests:** Nancy Ayers, Judy Botts, Bill Brunner, Dan Bullock, Liz Bullock, Carole, Bob Chapla, Tim Chester, David D., Win Irwin, Bunny Johnson, Cindy Peck, Jack Petiet, Buzz Wynbeek

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**1. Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 6:32pm.

**2. Call to Community:** Tony read Frederick E. Gillis' Spirit of Community

### **3. Congregant Comments:**

Win Irwin urged the Governing Board to sign the Bell Tower proposal from the Foundation Board and the quote from OAK. We've known this was necessary for a long time, and I think the church CAN raise that \$800K. Also approve the building assessment, which is an invaluable tool to care for the church in the coming decades.

**4. FSC Thank You:** Cele thanked the soon to be outgoing officers of the board.

**5. Governing Board Minutes:** Katie moved to accept the October minutes. Geoff seconded, motion passed unanimously.

### **6. Nom Comm**

Katie updated:

We held our election and the following people will join the board:

- Geoff and John will be returning for second terms
- Cindy Peck and Jack Petiet joining for first terms
- Todd Fettig for a second term on the Foundation Board

Working on orientation dates and discussion.

Amy noted that we had four names for five vacancies. People did write in candidates, and all write-ins are eligible. Next board can discuss and vote on it, if they feel the need to clarify write-ins. I did reach out to the write in candidate. They are thinking about it... they have time, so it doesn't have to be tonight. We can also approach the runners up.

Also, we will have some vacancies on the Officers Committee. If interested, please ask an officer and we can tell you what happens.

## **7. Finance:**

Tim is not able to be here tonight, so we don't have a financial report tonight. Tim did say no anomalies, but we will call a special meeting if needed.

## **8. Annual Giving Campaign:**

RCR updated that we have \$449,708 as of today.

Group discussed getting together to sign thank you cards for those who have pledged.

Kristin M. talked about sharing some real numbers to encourage congregants to fund cost of living raises for our staff.

## **9. Oversight:**

Amy said that all the work the OC's done in recent years paid off with amendment proposals just recently.

## **10. Staff Report:**

RCR updated

- Facilities - parking lot gate going in this Wed.
- Front doors (under the "24") will be automated with a locking system... initially we would have had to keep a door locked all the time, which doesn't work for ADA compliance. Now trying something with magnets.
- Interfaith Thanksgiving service was a huge success on all fronts. Kauffman Inst. and Jewish/Muslim/and other groups expressed appreciation.
- Now we're in Advent so we'll just be plodding to Christmas Eve. Regular services as it's a Sunday. Also evening services. 4 years since we sang in the Christmas Eve services.
- Finish on the 31st with Bkfst church. We've had one year of this. These are well attended and supported, including by those whom we didn't expect to love it.
- Ed prog are pivoting to pre-Covid model, with monthly Sunday plans... Music/STEM/social justice/art type themes.

- New member interest, ppl who are reaching out and wanting to get involved. New cards might be part of it.

## 11. Old Business and Announcements:

### Bell Tower (BT)

Motions made and unanimously passed:

- James moved to get a facilities assessment.
- Cele moved to seek quotes for feasibility studies on raising funds for BT.
- Steve moved to investigate developers to work with prop in any capacity.
- Kristen L. moved to ask Foundation Board (FB) about their desire to fund BT completely.

FB got back to us with more than a yes or no:

- Use \$300K from FB
- \$200K from anonymous donor
- \$103 from Anita Gilileo prop
- \$100K for tower from FB, rather than usual 5%
- FB will match a \$800K raised
- Agree with assessment—Quinn Evans will start in Dec. and hopefully have a number by sometime in the first quarter of 2024

FB will give ONLY when money is received, and we'd probably need to get some funding

We had a Special GB Meeting on Oct. 29th to talk about this. No doubt that the building is the resp of the FB, but the GB has to sign off on this. A question we have is, what happens if \$ isn't raised and we're stuck with a bill? Is the FB willing to take it? Seems no. So we decided to gather a little more info.

Facilities Assessment came in at about \$75K, with additional services, about \$100K. FB wants work to start ASAP (springish, realistically), even without more info.

**Geoff moved to go forward with signing the contract and what the Foundation Board proposes (as Win said at the beginning of the meeting and with the \$800K match from Foundation Board). Shellie seconded. (Discussion below).**

**9 yea** (George, Kristin M., Steve, Geoff, Katie, Spalding, Shellie, Tony, Cele)

**4 opposed** (Amy, Kristen L., James, John)

**Absent:** Tim, Matthew

**Motion passed.**

Cele said that it feels like signing this contract is a commitment to the building. Do we really want to do that before more info is available?

Kristin M. said we really need to assess our position and the needs for the community. Even if we were to move, that would be a huge process.

James said we can't sign a contract that we don't have funding for.

Amy put out a reminder that we all want to stay here. We just have to consider all the angles.

Kristin M. said she'd feel more comfortable signing a contract when we have \$X raised.

Geoff feels that leaving this building would, essentially, destroy the community.

Spalding asked if we've reviewed the termination clause. What would it cost us to get out of this? The Foundation WILL have to fund whatever we can't raise. Amy said we have not negotiated contract language. Is that something we should do? Amy reminded that the FB has not said they WILL fund what we can't pay. When will we do fundraising?

Shellie asked Win to speak a little more to his confidence in raising money.

Tim Chester said fundraising cannot begin until the GB says "Go." Prior to that, there needs to be a commitment that we're 100% behind it. A clock is ticking... those with the financial capacity to do this aren't getting any younger.

Shellie called the question.

**\*BREAK\***

## **12. New Business:**

### **Facilities Assessment Quote**

About \$93,500 for this from Quinn Evans. Do we need to commit to the additional services that add to \$70K? Enough to approve the full amount, though we're technically only committed to the \$70K. Starting within the next couple weeks.

**Kristen L. moved to accept the proposal from Quinn Evans, for the full \$93,500. Tony seconded. Kristen L. made a friendly amendment to take funding directly from the Foundation in light of what we just approved for the Bell Tower. Tony seconded again. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Steve motioned that the GB ask the Second Century Campaign to begin fundraising immediately with our support. Spalding seconded. Friendly amendment that this is phase 1 of a multiphase campaign. Cele and Spalding seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

**13. Congregant Comments:** None

**14. Adjourn:** Geoff moved to adjourn. Spalding seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.