



**Foothills Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Date 3-14-2024**

**Board Members Present:** Beth Adams, Sue Bloomfield, John Hill, Diana Hutchinson, Mary Klecan, Linda Kothera, Susan Williams

**Absent:** Walter Nash, Gretchen Haley

**Others present:** none

**Consent Agenda:**

Diana Hutchinson made a motion to approve the February regular Board Meeting minutes and to approve the Community Minister agreement between Foothills and Rev. Roger Butts.

Motions were approved without objection.

**Regular Agenda**

John Hill (lead) and Susan Williams (team member) presented summary information from the team that conducted Gretchen's tri-annual Senior Minister review.

Feedback from the various sources: staff, congregants, people outside of the immediate Foothills community was consistent and indicated that Gretchen is very capably fulfilling her duties as Senior Minister at Foothills. Some concern was expressed for her work-life balance, and it was agreed that she is well deserving of her coming sabbatical in 2025.

**Board Discussion**

Linkage Work

Members of the Board reported on some of their Linkage meetings.

Sue shared details of her conversation with the minister of the UU church in Cheyenne, with Rev. Mount suggesting more communication between our two congregations.

John spoke with staff from Front Range Community College and learned about their efforts to help food insecure students at the Fort Collins campus.

Diana has been talking with early 20 year olds about ways to serve and be involved in Foothills.

Susan and Mary spoke with Terry and Adam from Plymouth UCC's Leadership Council. Their senior minister is getting ready to retire and they are looking at reorganizing some elements of how lay leadership functions. Interested in collaborations, in particular with Foothills' Justice groups.

Mary also met with the City of Fort Collins Human Relations Commission, who is interested in collaborations with Foothills.

#### Nested Bowls Discussion

The Board discussed Chapter 4 in Laura Park's book, Nested Bowls.

We answered several questions relating to Chapter 4 that had to do with Board service, and how Board members saw our sources of authority and accountability.

The Board talked at length in particular about how past Board members, congregants and leaders laid the groundwork for us to be able to do our present work. And in turn, how important it is for present leadership at all levels to encourage the involvement of diverse (and in particular younger) voices with Foothills.

The exercise was valuable as a reminder that we look both to the past and to the future to live out our mission and values.

#### Linkage Committee Charter

Beth shared that the Linkage Committee continues to work on the group's charter.

It was mentioned that it would contain more direction as to what the responsibilities would be for all involved. Also, that Linkage efforts would be delineated from the Visioning work that is coming up in the next year or so.

#### Potential new Board Members

There is one vacancy on the Board for the 24-25 church year. Mary mentioned the need to establish informal guidelines for how the Board will welcome prospective Board members, including sharing some standard information about how the Board functions

and some questions to ask of the visitors regarding their experience and desire to serve.

#### June 2nd Congregational Meeting

The Board had a preliminary discussion about the upcoming Congregational meeting that signals the end of the present church year. Mary shared her thoughts about making the meeting more interactive in that attendees might be asked to share their answers to a small set of questions regarding how things are going for people. Another possibility would be to tap into the church's small group leadership to get involved.

#### Beverages with the Board

The Board discussed what future events could look like. One possibility is to join with the next meeting of the Millennial-ish group meeting April 21st at Intersect. Another idea mentioned was to have more frequent staffed tables at social hour, perhaps with the structure of having leading questions that people could answer.

#### Ministry Report

No report this month.

#### Checkouts/ What does the congregation need to know?

- Look for efforts to restructure interaction with the Board
- Congregational meeting June 2nd
- Board staffing Action Table March 24th

**The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30 pm.**

**Minutes written and presented by** Linda Kothera