



**Foothills Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Date 4-11-2024**

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

**Absent:** Diana Hutchinson, Walter Nash

**Others present:** Katie Watkins, DFO

**Consent Agenda:**

The March Board of Trustees regular minutes were approved without objection.

The Board approved the formation of a task force to plan the June congregational meeting, with full membership to be determined at a future date.

**Regular Agenda:**

**Linkage conversations**

Board discussed the upcoming Pacific Western Region Conference for UU congregations in the context of performing linkage work. The conference could be a good opportunity to set up future discussions regarding linkage. For example, the efforts of other congregations' reproductive justice teams could be shared.

Gretchen mentioned her desire to host a gathering of UU churches from along the Front Range. It would be a good opportunity for the Board to have conversations with other Boards. She's considering a target date of Fall 2025, which will be right before our church's visioning work starts.

Foothills will be the first meeting location for a City of Fort Collins program called "Our Neighbor's Faith", which has members of the public visit various churches around town.

Beth shared that she set up a calendar to track linkage efforts. The calendar is viewable by all on the Linkage Committee, as well as the Board.

## **Financial Report**

Katie Watkins presented the 2023 year-end financial data. The church's accounts ended the year as expected, with an approximately \$118,000 loss. Factors that contributed to the amount included losses from rental income because the new construction wasn't finished, differences between budgeted and received grant money, and costs associated with opening the new building.

That said, Katie said that people were generous. Pledges were down, but the church received a number of new ones. A couple of budget items related to the new building, such as cleaning were under budgeted. There were also 'out of the blue' donations received.

Katie said that, in terms of account, there isn't any transitional money anymore now that the building is complete.

She also stated that approximately \$40,000 was raised for installing solar panels.

With regard to recent personnel changes, Katie said that Kelsey DiAstra's duties were split among two part time workers.

Katie then shared some details regarding negotiations with Pinkard over still outstanding issues related to the construction of the new building. In particular, work continues to satisfactorily run the HVAC system as it was intended. The issue will be better resolved in the coming weeks, possibly with the help of additional legal advice.

All in all, the financials are under significantly better control due to much better visibility of how money is moving through accounts.

## **Membership Discussion**

The Board had a discussion regarding how the Policy book and the Bylaws describe continuation and termination of church membership. In particular, discussion ensued about conditions under which a person would no longer be considered a member of the congregation.

At issue is the need for a process to address cases where people want to participate, but do not want to contribute monetarily to the church, nor have asked for a waiver. The Policy book is currently interpreted to mean that participating in activities or contributing financially are equivalent ways to be a member.

Thus, the Policy book needs an updated policy. Gretchen and Mary will meet with Diana about it to draft updated wording, and the Board will discuss it further in the future.

### Ministry Report

Gretchen shared her excitement about the long-awaited Grand Opening ceremonies for the new building.

Two new staff members have been hired to carry out duties related to communication needs at the church.

A ministerial intern has been selected. More details to come.

Data on engagement to be presented at the May regular Board meeting.

There will be one summer service, at 10am. Extra activities are in the works for folks who like to come to church early.

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

- Congregational meeting June 2nd

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

**Minutes written and presented by Linda Kothera**