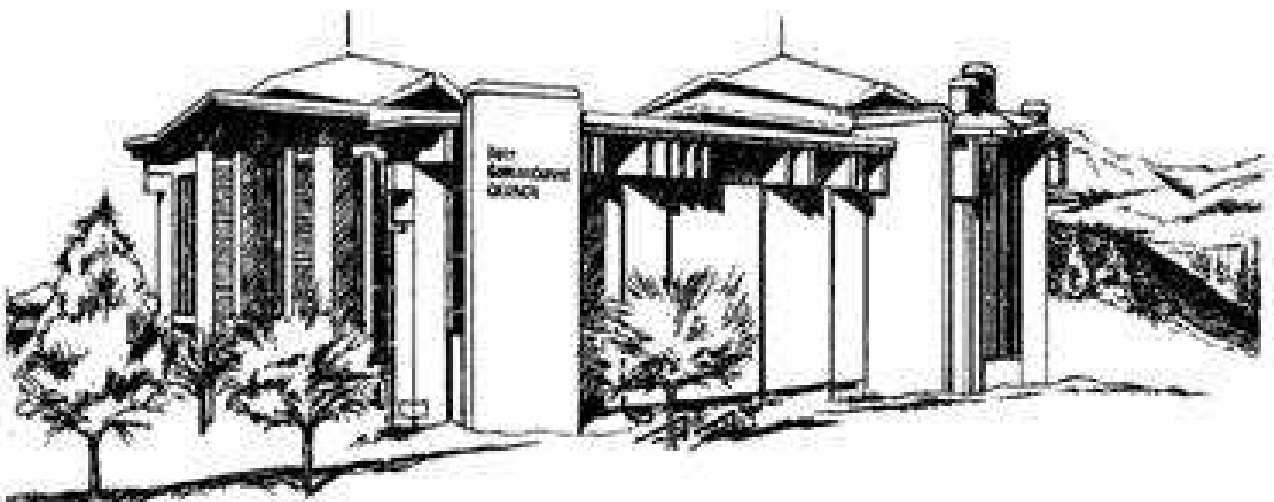


# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

155<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

2020



**First Congregational Church  
155th Annual Meeting  
2020**

## **Agenda**

**Call to Order**

**Cissy Wolff, Moderator**

**Opening Prayer**

**Rev. Janie Gebhardt**

**Clerk's Report**

**Ken Rockwell, Church Clerk**

**Annual Reports of Minister, Council, Boards**  
Attached

**Nominating Committee Report**

**Election of Officers and Board Members**

**Approval of 2020-2021 Budget**

**Paul Kelley, Treasurer**

**Board Updates**

**Other Business**

**Closing Prayer**

**REPORT OF THE CHURCH CLERK**  
**For FCC Annual Meeting 2020**

Membership statistics as of May 15, 2019:	
Voting members:	68
Life members:	3
Out of town members (voting)	4
Out of town members (non-voting)	10
Inactive members (non-voting)	41
Associates (15 local, 1 out of town)	16
 Total membership:	 <b>142</b>
 Friends: 15 local, 2 out of town	 17
 New members May 16, 2019 to May 15, 2020	 0
 Membership decrease May 16, 2019 to June 1, 2020	 5
By death	3
By withdrawal	2

This year's report on church membership is problematic due to the lack of statistics that the Clerk usually received from the Membership Committee—currently a non-functioning body with no members. On account of the suspension of services and the closing of the church during the COVID-19 pandemic, this is an uncertain time for classifying anyone as inactive. So as a provisional estimate, based on past statistics and what is known from the past year, our total membership is 137, and our active membership in the vicinity of 60 members, perhaps less.

BAPTISMS, May 16, 2019 to May 15, 2020	0
WEDDINGS, May 16, 2019 to May 15, 2020	0

**NECROLOGY**

Members	Date of death
Stanley Strader	June 29, 2019
Bettie Clark	Dec. 13, 2019
Gerry Thom	June 1, 2020
 Friends	
Tom Wittke	Sept. 14, 2019

--Ken Rockwell  
Church Clerk

## **Moderator Annual Report 2019 – 2020 – Wendy Haupt**

This church year has been one of change with our past minister, Marijke Rossi, leaving us in July. Much time was spent searching for an interim minister and subsequently an intentional interim minister. Many wonderful members and guest ministers filled the pulpit in the Summer months. Al Hammond served as our interim minister from Sept - Dec 2019, while a Pulpit Search Committee was formed, led by Marge Kimes. We hired Janie Gebhardt as an intentional interim minister in February. Janie was hired to help us engage in self-study and goal setting by reviewing the past and planning for the future to strengthen and enhance the mission and unity of First Congregational Church. With the onset of Covid 19, we lost the ability to meet in person in mid-March, making goal setting for our future more difficult.

We held two gatherings of members and friends in homes to discuss future visioning ideas for our church. We also gathered for a one day retreat, with a retreat leader Beth Guss. Four goals emerged from this gathering.

1. To continue to pursue finding a pastor (either longer-term interim or permanent) and to have a contract signed by Easter (April 12) 2019.
2. To have a focused conversation on camp so as to give camp kids a more comprehensive experience of 'you belong'. Besides those at the retreat, that will ideally involve Shaun, Christine, Molly to help learn lessons from history and look for new ways to reach those involved in camp.
3. By February, to have a proposal for the congregation on a focal direction for FCC ministry (mission) outreach that will build on strengths and be mindful of history. (inward/outward dynamic)
4. Undertake research into other potential places for the congregation to continue to gather and background information useful to help decide about selling the church facility.

This year we were short handed on Council. No one represented the Stewardship/Membership board, Kevin Haupt serving as both 1st associate moderator and CE representative, and there was a part time vacancy in a Council at Large position. Cissy Wolff stepped in to fill the Council at Large position in April. Changes in moderator leadership has taken place this year. Kevin Haupt stepped down as 1st Associate Moderator effective on July 1, and Cissy Wolff has been elected 1st Associate Moderator and will become Moderator on July 1.

Given the age of our building, dwindling attendance, and dwindling financial support, Council has been pondering our future. We have consulted with a commercial realtor to ask about possibilities for our building (including rental part of the building or selling the property). Other ideas brought up have been to share our building with another church, sell our property and join with another church, or to sell our property and stay together as a gathered community in other ways outside of our building. Council was also approached by a larger church, wanting to buy our church and build their own modern space, while also offering us a small space in the church. No formal proposal has come from this church as of this writing.

Cissy Wolff has interviewed members and friends of FCC to get each person's thoughts on the future of our church. Cissy has compiled that data from 53 people, and a committee is meeting to review the results of her interviews and formulate a plan of action. Susan Olson, Wendy Haupt, and Marge Kimes have been looking at possible Bylaw revisions. In this process, there were some potential legal questions that may come up with the bylaws and the Trust. Therefore Council approved hiring a Non Profit lawyer, Chase Manderino, to help us navigate any legal issues with bylaw revision. Mr. Manderino has just started this process, and no bylaw changes have been proposed as of this writing.

## **Trustees Annual Report 2019-2020**

Such an interesting year. Some exciting things happened for the Trustees. Most importantly was getting the boiler replaced for a reasonable cost. We did have heat and too much at times in certain areas. This will be improved with new controls that should be in place soon. The work on this is in progress. We have yet to find a used chiller for cooling during the summer, but still have the option of multiple air conditioner units and a large swamp style cooler that helped to get temperatures in the sanctuary to a bearable level especially if you sat on the shady side of the sanctuary. With these we did have a decrease in our utility costs for the year.

There were some odd sources of income, which included sale of a small unused portion of the Church property in the southeast corner with a two-year construction easement for a little over \$88,000.00. The new boiler came with a rebate from Dominion Energy, and some property taxes were returned to us as well. We still are waiting on ATT to pay their portion of the taxes on the antenna leases.

Notwithstanding, these income new sources, there is a shortfall in the general giving which did not meet the expenditures for the year. There were too many variables to determine if this will continue, but it is likely.

Because of the sale of the property, two appraisals for the Church property were completed which put the value of it at about 3-5 million dollars. This includes the antenna space rentals. It has yet to be determined if this will be helpful if we seek a realtor, discuss with other Churches, or affordable housing in the discussions for our future.

Both antenna lease companies, AT&T and T-Mobile, have asked to renegotiate a longer contract as they both could end in the next few years. Each contract offers were for lower amounts in the long run. After discussions with a lawyer, Trustees, and Council, and with

our uncertain future, we declined at this time but feel our site is highly desirable and each company would likely open negotiations at any time.

We continued our insurance through Guide1. They were concerned with fire and electrical safety. With an electrical and fire hood inspections, we were able to mute their concerns. We will be up for renewal again in August and may seek additional bids from Church Mutual.

Some additional projects completed included crack sealing the parking lot, cleaning the gutters on the roof so no leaks occurred into the building to my knowledge, and new wiring for the sprinkler system thanks to Scott Hansen.

I am sure you are all waiting to hear about the elevator. It simply stopped working. The elevator service people gave a bid for reconstruction, and no other company would give a bid. The initial repair was to rebuild certain parts as this is a rare style elevator and not easily repaired. The rebuilt parts did not work. New parts were ordered. These recently came in and the repairs will be attempted again this month.

Still we need a few projects to complete such as roof over the cupola area of the sanctuary, door maintenance, and leveling some concrete areas, but as all things, we are a work in progress.

Scott Haupt, Chairman, Board of Trustees, First Congregational Church.

## **Board of Christian Education**

The members of the Board of Christian Education for this year were Molly Connor, Patti Garver, Ashton McDonald, Carrie Naughton, and Christine Madsen, with support from Kevin Haupt.

Rally Sunday was held on September 8, 2019 at the church.

Sunday school class attendance ranged from 1 or 2 kids up to 3 or 4 kids. Camp Sundays were held the first Sunday of each month in place of Sunday School.

The lessons taught this year in Sunday School followed the McGillis Toolbox Curriculum. Molly Connor typically taught the lesson. Kevin Haupt and Ashton McDonald also helped on several occasions.

Youth Sabbath was held on November 10. A Thanksgiving Feast was held on November 24 as part of Sunday School. A Christmas skit was held on December 15; Scott Brown made his excellent chicken soup. The traditional Nativity Scene was part of the Christmas Eve service with Molly Connor directing and Ashton McDonald narrating. We did not have an Easter Egg Hunt or prepare Mother's Day gifts due to COVID-19. Chloe McIntire, who is graduating from high school, wrote a message for her Mother for the Mother's Day service; it was placed on the church Facebook page.

The Board continued to sponsor Jayrald Arnigo through offerings collected in 'Noisy Buckets' on camp Sundays. The Board sent Jayrald money for Christmas and his Birthday. The Sunday school children wrote personalized letters to Jayrald during the Sunday school year.

Several Pilgrim Fellowship events occurred during the year, including Cornbellies, LaserQuest, and ice skating.

No Covenant class occurred this year.



## **Board of Deacons Annual Report 2019-20**

The 2019-2020 year was fraught with challenges from the beginning, starting with the resignation of Reverend Rossi in June. The Board ensured continuity of regular worship by eliciting members of the congregation, as well as some outside guest preachers, to provide a message. This continued through the summer, until Reverend Al Hammond agreed to take on a role as part-time pastor in the fall through Christmas. Starting in January, once again the deacons ensured a weekly worship and message, until Reverend Janie Gebhardt was called as our Interim Pastor at the beginning of March. The deacons would like to thank all who volunteered to fill the pulpit at various times during this difficult year. A special thanks goes out to Joanna Hart, who agreed to act as our anchor, by committing to leading the communion worship on the first Sunday of every month following the end of Reverend Hammond's term, and until Reverend Gebhardt's arrival.

The Board of Deacons consisted of Ken Rockwell, Carla McIntire (Council representative/ Moderator), Marge Kimes, Michael Lowry (part year) and Phil LeHoux (chair). In addition to ensuring that a guest fill the pulpit at various times during the year, the Board also performed its primary weekly function of supporting the Sunday Worship by providing liturgists and other required worship preparation such as communion and ushers, and special occasion flower/live plant handling, as well as organizing and preparation for special services. These included the decorating of the Sanctuary for Thanksgiving, the Christmas season, and preparation for Easter. As congregational activities, including weekly worship, were suspended in March, this work was no longer required. This suspension of activities included already-planned Lenten and Easter week activities. The Agape Feast planning for a joint activity with Holladay UCC was also well underway when public gatherings were suspended.

Regular worship continued as online streaming, available via Facebook and the FCC website Facebook portal. There were technical issues encountered as this new communication technology was implemented, but after a few weeks, it became regular and reliable. Though “live” attendance has not been as high as attendance at FCC, over 100 devices have viewed a weekly message from Reverend Janie Gebhardt, some of which were multiple viewers on a single screen.

At time of writing this report, it was still unclear when regular church activities and worship would resume. This includes whether the annual Outdoor Worship would be held at Washington Terrace in June, but the facility remained available to FCC, if this proceeds, and the deacons remain ready to organize the event, even on short notice.

### **Outreach Board Annual Report 2020**

The members of the Outreach Board are: Scott Hansen, Cathy Rockwell, and Diane Forster-Burke (chair).

The year of 2019/2020 for the Board started 2 new members to Outreach so Diane Forster-Burke offered to resume the role as chair. Scott became the secretary and Cathy has been invaluable with her ability to research organizations. With continued decline in people who were interested in doing service projects, we limited our involvement to dinner at St. Vincent de Paul’s to about 2 times a year (ending December 2019) and the Utah Food Bank to 4 times a year. The Utah Food Bank continued to change its requirements for volunteers due to the pandemic, which made it more difficult for us to volunteer.

We are very grateful for the continued financial support of projects from church members in the form of monthly donations (see attached) as well as the continuous giving generosity during the Christmas month (Alternative Gift Market and Giving Tree).

We were a host for the American Red Cross Blood to do a blood drive in early April. They collected nearly 20 units of blood from members and donors from outside of our church. Thank you FCC members for your continued generous spirit!

June		4 to UtFdBk day	Utah Food Bank	\$460	L
July			Utah Food Bank	\$470	L
August	4 at UFB	25 Backpacks	Granite Ed Foundation	\$442	L
September		1 bag of clothing	Street Dawg Crew	\$486	L
October		3 to UFB, 3 to St Vinny's	American Red Cross	\$615	I
November		Share the Harvest 96 lbs to UFB	Shalom Salaam Tikal Olem	\$500	L
24-Dec		retired minister fund 12/24		\$86	N
December		5 bags used clothing and 2 bags share the warmth tree donations	Morgan Scott Project	\$520	N
January			Wounded Warriors	\$340	N
February		54 lbs of food Souperbowl of Caring	Utah Food Bank	\$625	L
March			World Wildlife Fund	\$580	I
April	UFB 6/6	2 went to UFB but excused due to age	4th Street Clinic, UFB	\$245	L
May			Wasatch Comm Gardens		L
June	UFB 6/6		Inn Between		L

## **Report on Friendship Manor 2020 Annual Report**

In the past year the vacancy rate at Friendship Manor has gone from very low to higher than normal, but finances remain strong. Every five years the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires a study to compare rental rates at Friendship Manor to the local market. This year's study resulted in a substantial increase of HUD's payments for the subsidized units and warranted an increase in the rate charged for the non-subsidized units.

The Board continued to communicate with HUD about allowing budgetary flexibility between the meal program and the remaining operating budget, but that issue remains unresolved at this time. A major upgrade of the building's plumbing system is in progress.

Like other senior living facilities, Friendship Manor in 2020 has had to adjust many of its activities because of the COVID-19 pandemic. For the past couple of months, meals have been served to residents in their rooms and other activities cancelled that are not amenable to social distancing. Friendship Manor has not had an outbreak of deaths attributed to COVID-19. Both board meetings and Resident Association meetings have been put on hold. Sara Struhs, the site manager, has continued her weekly informative email newsletter, and Cara Stewart, the Service Coordinator, has added a weekly email support letter addressing more directly the personal issues that arise as we all deal with the orders to stay home and stay safe. They are invaluable resources to both board members and residents.

FCC's cooperation with Congregation Kol Ami, Holladay United Church of Christ, and First Unitarian Church in founding and sustaining Friendship Manor is one of its most long-standing and important community commitments. During 2019-20 FCC's representatives on the Friendship Manor board of trustees were Carrie Naughton, Vicki Brunstetter, and Susan Olson.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT – 2020-2021

### **Council At Large (3 minimum)**

1. Ron Sawdey
2. Marge Kimes
- 3.

### **Christian Education (5 minimum)**

1. Patti Garver
2. Carrie Naughton
3. Scott Haupt

Molly Connor – Ad Hoc Member

### **Deacons (5 minimum)**

1. Phil LeHoux
2. Ken Rockwell
3. Diane Forster-Burke
- 4.

### **Membership/Stewardship (7 combined Membership/Stewardship)**

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

### **Outreach (5 minimum)**

1. Cathy Rockwell
2. Ashton McDonald
- 3.

### **Trustees (5 minimum)**

1. Scott Brown

2. Scott Hansen
3. Bob Baird
- 4.

## **Church Officers**

### **Moderators**

1. Cissy Woolf
2. Carla McIntire
3. Mike McIntire

### **Financial**

1. Paul Kelley – Treasurer
- 2.
3. Mike McIntire – Financial Secretary
- 4.

### **Clerk**

1. Ken Rockwell

### **Historian**

1. Carla McIntire
2. Diane Simons
- 3.

### **FCC Trust**

1. Scott Brown
2. Scott Hansen
3. Scott Haupt

### **Friendship Manor**

1. Vickie Brunstetter

2. Susan Olson
3. Carrie Naughton
- 4.

#### **Mt. Olivet Cemetery**

1. Blaine Simons
- 2.

### **Other Positions**

#### **Parish Nurses**

1. Diane Forster-Burke
2. Marge Kimes

#### **Camp Fellowship**

1. Christine Madsen
2. Shaun McIntire
3. Diane Forster-Burke

#### **Caring Ministry Team**

1. Diane Forster-Burke
2. Diane Simons
3. Cissy Wolff

#### **Garden of Grace**

1. Jeanne Hansen
2. Scott Hansen