

Quarterly Congregational Meeting

Sept. 22, 2024 — Fifty-three people in attendance

1) Board Co-Chair Gayle Dee opened the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

2) Reports

- a. **Pastors' Report** — Pastor Jared Ruari thanked and recognized everyone “for all the ways you’re serving the broader community.” He mentioned “little examples,” including a mom and preschooler who recognized Jared and Allison at Fred Meyer and a woman who could not talk with her own pastor about LGBTQ+ issues but could with Pastor Jared. ... He mentioned the “green shoots” he’s starting to see in his newly seeded lawn at home. “It’s a joy for us to see those green shoots in our ministry to the broader community,” he said.
- b. **Financial report** — Treasurer Cam Shuck said giving is normally down in the summer and it was down, but only slightly, in August – a deficit of \$4,000 for the month and \$1,400 year to date. “That’s less than \$200 a month for eight months,” he said. “We’re in good shape. Financial Secretary Charlotte Houser said we have a new method of online giving — Give Now — that’s quick and easy. It can be accessed via the QR code on Sunday worship bulletins and the “Donate” button on the website. There is a small fee with each contribution. “You can pay the fee or the church will pay the fee,” Charlotte said.

3) Changes to the FCC Bylaws. Tabled until December Congregational Meeting.

4) Recognition.

Linda Morse received recognition for being a vital part of First Christian PrePrimary School since its inception in 1971. During the Congregational Meeting, DeeDee Blais read a nice tribute to Linda from former PrePrimary Director Beth Morse, who was unable to be there. Here are some of those words:

"Over the last 53 years, she has seen growth and change of the program. She has seen it through a building remodel, hiring seven directors and many teachers, a new playground was built, she helped unload hundreds of children from their cars, prepped many art projects ... assisted with carnivals and other fundraisers, and did the financials for the program by balancing the checkbook, paying bills and payroll.

"She recently decided that it was time to wrap up her time as a board member. ... But as she concludes her time with the Preschool, we didn't want this opportunity to pass by without sharing our appreciation, and recognizing her for her tremendous commitment, dedication and unwavering support over the last 53 years."

DeeDee presented Linda with a fingerprint art piece from the FCC PrePrimary School students and a sculpture of two young students, one of whom is holding a

lamp, given to Linda from the FCC PrePrimary Board for “always being a shining light for the program.”

5. Updates and Information.

a. Nominations. Graham Kislingbury thanked people for signing up for a variety of “FCC opportunities” during Rally Day on Sept. 15, and encouraged those who hadn’t signed up to look at the sign-up clipboards that filled two tables in Fellowship Hall. He pulled out one clipboard for nominations of people needed to serve as church officers, board and committee members in 2025. The Nominating Committee will be meeting soon, and he encouraged people who are asked to serve in coming weeks to give serious consideration to those asks. People can nominate themselves or others.

b. Stewardship Campaign. The annual Stewardship Campaign will be held each Sunday in October, with Commitment Sunday on Oct. 27. The campaign theme will be “Festival of Faithfulness.” The Stewardship Committee will meet at least quarterly in 2025.

c. Choir/music director hiring: We’re continuing to look for a director. Members of the congregation were encouraged to make personal asks if they know of someone who would make a good director.

d. Budget process: The Budget Committee will start meeting in early October to work on the 2025 budget. It will be a “continuation budget,” Allison said. “If you have an idea, now is the time to start planting the seeds.”

e. Israel/Palestine discernment process — Edie Koenig, representing the Israel-Palestine Advocacy Team, read from the Christian Church (Disciples of General Assembly) resolution GA-2339 “Compelled to Witness: Answering the Cry of Our Palestinian Sibling” adopted in 2022. A discernment process is under way at First Christian to determine if there is consensus to affirm the resolution and accompanying pastoral letters that Edie also read from. Discernment meetings are scheduled for 1 p.m. Monday, Oct. 7, led by Pastor Jared on Zoom; after church on Sunday, Oct. 20, led by Mike Mayers in Fellowship Hall; and at 9 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 10, led by Stacey Bartholomew in Fellowship Hall.

6. Time for Questions/Comments: Brandy Riker, parent of a South Albany student, encouraged congregants to support teachers in their ongoing contract dispute with the school district. The dispute is now in mediation. She said a rally in support of teachers was scheduled for 4:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 23, at North Albany Middle School.

7. Gayle gave the closing blessing and adjourned the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

Next Quarterly Congregational meeting: Sunday, Dec. 8.