



Administrative Commission (AC) for Fontana/New Beginnings
Commission Final Report
September 2019

Healthy Pastors and Congregation Commission (HPCC) appointed Teaching Elder (TE) Sam Roberts, TE Henry DeGraaff and Ruling Elder (RE) Becky Bane to serve as the Administrative Commission.

The first meeting was on February 26 at 9:00 AM. Presbytery Leader for Mission and Vision Leader Timm High was also present serving as ex officio with the AC. TE Martin Smith was also present.

Meeting was opened with prayer at 9:05. Martin shared his insights and the AC discussed the history of the Fontana First Presbyterian/New Beginnings church. A meeting at the Fontana site was scheduled for Tuesday, March 12 at 11:00 AM.

On Tuesday, March 12, the AC, Timm High and Martin Smith toured the church site with two members of the congregation. Everything has “fallen in their laps”. Financial records were turned over to the AC.

Pastor Frank Mendoza and Enrique Gonzalez representing Centro Christiano also met with the AC. They have been renting the facility for 9 years and have been responsible for minimal maintenance over the past few years. Three other congregations and an AA group also rent.

Centro Christiano appears to be the most trustworthy and responsible group. They have expressed an interest in purchasing the property.

The AC dismissed the Fontana New Beginnings members, TE Martin Smith, Pastor Frank Mendoza and Enrique Gonzalez, expressing great appreciation for their diligence, and continued meeting over lunch.

The AC will seek an appraisal for the property in “as is” condition, hire an accountant to do a financial review of the church accounts, seek proof of insurance and 501c3 status from the renters, and ask the New Beginnings/Centro Christiano communities to clean out the facility.

It will be communicated that unsupervised children will not be allowed in the building and that personal belongings currently stored there must be removed.

A fire inspection will be scheduled as soon as possible.

Henry DeGraaff for the AC

On Tuesday, March 19 Henry met with Randy Gonzalez to get keys for all of the church.

On Tuesday, March 26, the AC met with Timm and Francisco Mendoza to begin work on a lease agreement.

It was clear at this time that the whole situation was a risk management/insurance nightmare.

Meeting at the Fontana First Presbyterian/New Beginnings Church

Tuesday April 2 was opened with prayer by Timm High at 4:00 pm.

Becky Bane and Henry De Graaff were present. Timm High was present ex officio. Sam Roberts was excused.

Henry reported that he had met with Carlos Gomez, small business consultant at Bank of America and received details of documentation needed to continue transfer of responsibility for church finances from Fontana First Presbyterian account to the Presbytery. Fontana AC and Presbytery staff will continue the process.

Henry also reported that after searching through the offices, he was able to find the Church Register and a few files but no Session minutes. There are no members of the church remaining.

Randy Gonzalez is slowly beginning to remove his "stuff" from the property. His daughter and son still come to the church every day after school and wait to be picked up at approximately 4:00.

From the records in existence it appears that FPC Fontana has not maintained its 501c3 status since 2011. Work is in progress to remedy the situation.

Bills are being paid by the Presbytery until the balance of funds from FPC Fontana can be transferred.

The AC will pay off the current PILP loan.

The AC is seeking an appraisal of the property

Current groups and individuals using the facility will be given notice to vacate the buildings and remove their belongings by June 1, 2109.

The AC will begin to negotiate a lease of the property to the Centro Christiano. The congregation and its pastor, Frank Mendoza have been quite responsible and responsive in trying move forward.

The lease will include:

- use of the facilities and right of first refusal if the property is to be sold
- A survey of equipment that belong to FPC Fontana and to Centro Christiano
- Responsibility for protection, cleaning, and maintenance, and repair of damage given to Centro Christiano
- Continue use of the facility by the AA group that has met there for over 30 years
- Proof of 501c3 status and insurance from Centro Christiano

Meeting was close with prayer at 4:35

Henry DeGraaff for the AC

On April 5, Randy Gonzalez was asked to remove all of his personal “stuff” from the property. The AC agreed to rent a storage unit for his family until they could find an apartment and move in. His children were still staying in the church after school until they could be picked up. Francisco Mendoza agreed to take responsibility for their safety. Francisco agreed to have members from his congregation remove the weeds and engage a tree trimmer in response to a complaint notice from the city – and repair exterior lights.

On Tuesday April 16 the AC reviewed a first draft of a lease with Centro Christiano.

On May 1, the AC received a second notice about back flow valve inspection. Three attempts had been made to coordinate time with the city and Francisco to accomplish the inspection. Eventually, locks were cut and the inspection took place on May 29.

On Tuesday, April 14, Becky, Henry, and Cherylyn met at Bank of America to change the names of the authorized signers on the Fontana/New Beginnings account.

Being informed that the Presbytery had a “contractor on retainer,” The AC engaged the services of David Baird. Henry met with him on Tuesday, April 14 to begin a “to do list” for repairs to the property.

A member of the Centro Christiano backed Frank’s van into the church building. Bids were offered for repairs. The most complete and professional was accepted.

During the first 2 weeks of June, Francisco and Byron Cyron (the contractor) kept pressuring us for money for the repairs. On June 25, the repairs were actually finished and reimbursement was authorized. Francisco also presented a bill for repair to his van. Carrie noticed that the insurance check was actually the total of two bids for repair to the building. She called the insurance company and discovered that repair to the van was not covered. Therefore, she returned the extra amount to the insurer and Francisco was on his own for repairs to his van.

On June 25, the AC met and decided that we or our agents had been “stood up” for the last time. We will seek a realtor and proceed to sell the property asap. An elder from the Corona congregation recommended an associate with a great track record in selling churches. We agreed that if Centro Christiano could afford to make an offer they should be given credit for work they had done in maintaining the property. It does look much better than it did four months ago.

On July 2, Henry offered Jeremie Tavisola of Tavisola and Associates at the site.

On July 11, the AC gave the OK for work on the air conditioning and filters.

On Tuesday, July 23, the AC met and decided not to re-key the property. None of the “other four” worshipping communities who have used the facility for many years have complied with our request for proof of 501c3 status and insurance.

Henry will be gone until Sept. 1. Becky Bane will be the AC contact person.

Motion: We request that Jeremie Tavisola work directly with Property Finance Investment and Funds Development Committee to sell the property to a church or a developer. The appraisal has been made and is \$875,000 as is.

Motion: The Fontana/New Beginnings AC requests that it be dismissed at the September meetings of HPCC.

Respectfully submitted: Henry DeGraaff, Coordinator of the AC July 30, 2019