

Grinnell UCC-Congregational Governing Board

Meeting Minutes

Sunday, May 23, 2021

12:00 pm – 1:01pm via Zoom

Members present: Terese Grant, Liz Rodrigues, Julie Eberbach, John Ashby, Keir Johnson; Jessica Margrave Schirm, *ex officio*.

Opening Devotions (Jessica)

Approval of minutes

March 28, 2021 and April 25, 2021: **Approved** by unanimous consent.

Henry Rietz Update on MID (Member In Discernment) Process – Henry Rietz

- Henry has been in a deliberate process of discernment for a significant period of his life. He has not always been sure ordination would be part of his call, but over the last couple of years, in conversation with the Committee on Ministry of the Central Association, it has become clear to him that ordination is his next step.
- At this time, Henry asks for our support, prayers, and spiritual encouragement.
- The next step toward ordination will be an ecclesiastical council.
- The Governing Board expresses its full support for Henry as he moves toward ordination. He will continue to be in relationship with the Board as this process proceeds.

Reports/Updates

Treasurer

- There is nothing unusual to report in terms of financials. We are on track with the budget as expected.

Pastor

- See written report.
- Two main areas of focus right now are planning for re-opening and pastoral care.
- For professional development, Pastor Jessica plans to attend a retreat for women in ministry in July.

New Covid Letter Regarding Re-Opening Process

- The Board has reviewed a draft by John Ashby and Josh Sandquist, which is set to be sent to the congregation soon.
- In broad strokes, the letter lays out:

- If the COVID situation remains stable, we will return to in-person worship on June 13th.
- Socially distanced seating is being worked out, and masks will be required. There will be no singing and attendance will be taken to facilitate contact tracing if needed.
- We plan to offer a livestream worship option along with in-person worship going forward.
- Seekers will continue in a hybrid format, with in-person and Zoom attendance.
- There are many logistics and technical set-ups still to be worked out, so there will be some hitches for sure, but we all pray for patience and good luck as we move toward these next steps.

Old Business

Copyright reporting/notification of recording of services to attendees.

- Because we plan to offer a livestream worship option, we will need to remain aware of copyright implications. We will also need to consider having a consent to be recorded form signed by those who will appear on video (such as the liturgist), consider any longer term ramifications associated with a particular platform (for example, would platforms retain a copy of our recording for future data-mining?), and notifying those in attendance that there is some chance they may be recorded, even though we will try to offer a seating area out of the camera range.

Open Business

New Business

Grace Abounds Project – Jessica

- We are under budget, so there are additional funds to allocate to additional Welcoming and Accessibility projects:
 - The sidewalk project (4th Ave. to the preschool), estimated to be \$7,000.
 - Offering a livestream worship option: an accessibility issue. Livestreaming will require investing in some hardware needed to offer it. Examples of this would be putting an ethernet hook-up in the sanctuary and replacing the video camera, which is an older model and does not have needed features.
 - Updating our sign: an issue related to welcoming. The estimated cost is \$1300.

Motion: Approve expenditures proposed above from the remaining Grace Abounds funds (Eberbach/Grant): **motion carries.**

Closing Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Liz Rodrigues, clerk