

# Grinnell UCC-Congregational Governing Board

## Meeting Minutes

Sunday, December 19, 2021

1:00-2:01 pm in Person Seekers Room and via Zoom

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**Members present:** Julie Eberbach, Liz Rodrigues, John Ashby, Ross Haenfler; Jessica Margrave Schirm, *ex officio*.

Opening Devotions

Approval of minutes

9 26 2021 and 10 24 2021 minutes: amended to correct attendance for October meeting and then approved by unanimous consent.

Reports/Updates

Pastor's Report: see attachment

Annual Meeting

- Date: January 30, 2022
- Agenda items: updates from committees, window repair budgets, give an overview of plans for Henry's ordination and call, vote on budget. vote on nomination slate.
- The moderators will meet with Pastor Jessica before the next governing board meeting to go over the meeting plan and agenda.

Treasurer Report

- No report due to Keir's resignation from role.

Stewardship and budget status

- 59/63 pledging units have responded to stewardship ask.
- We are roughly \$27,000 behind budget projections.
- All things considered, this is a strong position for the church to be in.
- We will need to be thinking creatively about how to meet the budget needs for the year, including the future of the Lead Organizer position.
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Church Staff: goal to have report available to congregation of plans by January?

- Ken Retirement/Replacement

- The pandemic disrupted Ken's planned timeline for retirement which was to have been Christmas of this year, but as things open up he is again considering next steps.
- John and Pastor Jessica will review the charge and plan for convening a new Music Task Force (or at least not assuming that prior members are still interested, as they initially agreed to that work in February 2020).
- It might be possible to work with a consultant with experience helping congregations think about their music ministry. John will begin looking for recommendations.
- Erin Bustin & Lead Organizer position
  - This role has developed and grown far past what was originally projected. As Pastor Jessica noted in her monthly report, "initially intended to be a very small (15 hours or less) part time job of basic community organizing around social justice – grew to include nearly all of our Christian Ed programming, church-wide community building, Our Whole Lives which is the greatest gift to come from her work, AND community organizing around social justice."
  - Erin also shared that the work felt more like a ministry than a part-time job.
  - We might consider making this a ministerial position or a position geared to someone in discernment, perhaps  $\frac{3}{4}$  to full-time, and try to recruit someone with knowledge of the local community. For example, there might be recent Grinnell College graduates who have an interest in ministry or who have recently finished seminary.

#### Livestreaming

- The computer in the Seekers room is having issues with a flickering display. John will look into this.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Rodrigues, clerk