

Grinnell UCC-Congregational Governing Board

Meeting Minutes

March 25, 2020

7-8:08 pm via Webex

Members present: Terese Grant, Troy Dillon, Liz Rodrigues, Josh Sandquist, Ross Haenfler, John Ashby, Keir Johnson; Jessica Margrave Schirm, *ex officio*.

Opening Devotions

Approval of minutes

- February 19, 2020 Governing Board meeting minutes: **Approved** by unanimous consent.

Reports/Updates

Treasurer

- We are tracking well on budget. There are no concerns at this point for continuing normal operating expenses for payroll.
- Keir is working on understanding how the endowment accounting works. He has questions about how earnings are accounted for relative to operating expenses. Pastor Jessica shared that there has been a desire to try to separate the endowment from operating expenses in accounting. The current system may be contributing to confusions about what funds are readily available and what portion is restricted.
- John will be attending Endowment Committee meetings along with Keir due to potential conflict of interest. The governing board member who attends these meetings is in an *ex officio* role. Reporting responsibilities of the Endowment Committee are under discussion.

Pastor

- Pastor Jessica has been working with Elizabeth, Ken, Bill, and Erin to work on continuity planning along with regular work as possible.

Open Business

Caring for the Grinnell UCC Church and its members

MOTION: Having considered our church's mission, the Governing Board expresses unanimous support for continuing salary and benefits for all staff in this period of disruption and uncertainty. (Ashby/Dillon) Motion carried.

- Capacity is limited for launching a web video version of our worship, and webcasting may not meet the needs of our specific community well. Pastor Jessica is working on an interactive order of service to be sent out, with links to videos, resources, and a voice recording from her. It will be accessible to anyone with email and Internet access. We will be paying attention to feedback and accessibility concerns that arise.
- Pastor Jessica will host a video session of *lection divina* on Thursday, March 26th, and that recording will be available afterward.
- Community connection in the context of physical isolation is a high priority. Pastor Jessica is working on plans for small groups with designated leaders for weekly contact.
- Governing Board members are asked to share a brief written testimony on how we are staying connected with spiritual life and community when we're not connected to the church building.

Caring for the Grinnell Community

- Erin Bustin has been moderating a local mutual aid Facebook group.
- Volunteers for Meals on Wheels are needed.

Safe Church Committee

- Members of this committee that had volunteered have had changes in circumstances and are not able to keep working on this charge. The Board will need to reconsider paths forward for this work.

Future of Music Ministries

- Josh has met with members of this group to discuss ideas and visions for the future, but the timeline for future work is unclear due to the need for social distancing.

Closing Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Rodrigues, clerk