

Grinnell UCC-Congregational Governing Board

Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2020

7-8:10 pm via Zoom

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

- March 25, 2020 Governing Board meeting minutes: **Approved** by unanimous consent.

Reports/Updates

Treasurer - 1st Quarterly Report

- Expenses and income are roughly on track for the year.
- Keir does not see a need to apply for the Payroll Protection Program at this time.

Pastor

- See attached report.
- Everyone is in the midst of figuring out their new normal, and Pastor Jessica is working closely with all staff to best facilitate both the work of the church and staff well-being.

Open Business

Online Worship Service Evaluation

- Governing board members shared their experiences with the emailed order of service that Pastor Jessica has been putting together, with help and input from other staff members. Pastor Jessica also shared that she has received positive feedback from some members who she was concerned would struggle with technology-dependent worship. Overall our experiences have been positive, and the decision not to jump into producing a videocast every week is a good fit for our community and resources. We may want to consider having a short note sent on Sunday mornings, in acknowledgement of the time we would normally be together. As the potential duration of social distancing measures becomes more clear, we will need to continue to reflect on how best to keep our community connected in worship.

Sharing of the Small Groups

- Governing board members shared experiences thus far with leading small groups. People have been reaching out in a variety of methods. Response from group members has varied, but that is normal, especially given the burdens everyone is facing now. Pastor Jessica plans to share additional ideas for small group leaders to try.

New Business

- Additional proposed changes to by laws regarding financial/endowment clarity: Keir has drafted a memo outlining questions about the procedures for determining the relationship of endowment income to budgeting. He suggests working on slight amendments to the bylaws that would clarify this and bring it into alignment with policy guidelines. John volunteered to assist in further work in this area. Keir and John will be in touch with the Endowment Committee as well.

Closing Prayer (Pastor Jessica)

Respectfully submitted by Liz Rodrigues, clerk