

Grinnell UCC-Congregational Governing Board

Meeting Agenda

May 20, 2020

7-8:15 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

- April 15 Governing Board meeting minutes: **Approved** by unanimous consent.

Reports/Updates

Treasurer

- Behind on revenue for April. Expenses have generally been lower than usual, which has helped offset that. Some areas have had expenses concentrated early in the year, such as the Anti-Racism Workshop (although that may eventually be offset by grant funding).

Pastor

- See attached report.
- Pastor Jessica has started planning for her return to working at the office. She is working closely with staff to manage safe work plans.

Open Business

Discussion about reopening the Church and creating a Task Force

- There are going to be difficult decisions to be made with imperfect and changing information. The consensus is that we should err on the side of staying safe.
- Given the uncertainties around many elements of virus transmission, returning to worship open to all in our sanctuary is not going to happen in the near term. The Iowa Conference suggests fall would be the earliest we might return, and it may be much longer than that.
- The Iowa Conference has recommended that each congregation create a Re-opening Task Force to investigate, evaluate, and propose plans for what will be an incremental, provisional process of re-opening the building and returning to forms of in-person worship.

- One question before us is how we can further develop intentional worship practices in this period of uncertainty: what are the creative options we can use to safely gather? For example: might we consider a brief, outdoor, socially-distanced gathering? Are there small groups that might meet with distancing and disinfecting practices? Are there external groups that should be allowed to use our space again?
- Another set of questions are around what incremental steps toward re-opening make sense in our community and how we will gauge the appropriate time to take these steps.
- Our goal is to develop a clear message about how the church is making decisions, why we are making certain decisions, and what decisions we have made, recognizing that circumstances may change at any time.
- Josh and John volunteered to serve as the Re-opening Task Force and begin gathering information. Troy offered to help as needed.

New Business

- **MOTION:** Authorize Elizabeth Haas to give and receive information regarding the church credit card with TCM Bank. (Ashby/Haenfler) Motion carried.
- **Distribution of governing board minutes:** In lieu of bulletin board posting, minutes will now be posted under the Governance section of the church website.

Closing Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Liz Rodrigues, clerk