

Grinnell UCC-Congregational Governing Board

Meeting Agenda

June 17, 2020

7-8:15 pm via Zoom

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

Opening Devotions

Approval of minutes

- May 20 Governing Board meeting minutes: **Approved** by unanimous consent.

Reports/Updates

Treasurer

- Year-to-date profit & loss is on track with where were at last year at this time, in terms of percentages. Given the context, this means we're doing really well.

Pastor

- A long-term plan for physically distanced worship is starting to seem necessary and desirable. People really want to see each other's faces. Conference staff have recommended not going to a live video format. With the limits on internet reliability, that is not a sustainable model for most Iowa churches. A better way to see more of other congregants might be to focus more on pre-recorded video for specific parts of the service. Making this sustainable, though, will probably require engaging more members in organizing and producing.
- The key question is: what is the most important way to be focusing our energy right now? What does it mean to be the church at this time?
 - One example: the memorial for George Floyd had a meaningful impact in our community.
 - One idea would be to focus on programs or services that we are unique in providing to our community. If an online version of Our Whole Lives is developed, this might be something to consider.
- Pastor Jessica and staff are planning to send out a survey for ideas and feedback.
- See attached report for additional details.

Old Business

Music Task Force

- It seems best for this group to pause its work as things are in a state of change already.

Grace Abounds update

- We are currently under budget and ahead on pledges fulfilled. This is a great situation to be in, and it is something to be celebrated.

Open Business

Reopening the Church Task Force Update - Josh and John

- While it looks like Covid-19 cases are not highly active in our county at this moment, there can be a spike at any time. Nationwide we are seeing a post-Memorial Day increase, which suggests that widespread gatherings of any kind can increase spread quickly.
- Smaller, distanced outdoor gatherings would probably be the safest option to consider right now, but no formal plans to initiate these have been made yet. **Updated 29 June 2020:** case numbers are rising throughout Iowa and outdoor gatherings are no longer being considered for the foreseeable future.
- Any additional activities would need to have clear communication around potential risks and ground rules for participating, such as wearing masks.

New Business

Changes with CoSI – John

- A group of CoSI members has been working on getting some money for food and making personal protective equipment for distribution.
- One thing that John has noticed is that this group may be a microcosm of what all service-oriented groups are facing as fatigue and uncertainty take a toll on volunteer capacity. Breaks will be necessary.

Next meeting

- We will meet next in early August, and as a group we are on call if Pastor Jessica needs any kind of decision or input before then.

Closing Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Liz Rodrigues, clerk