

Grinnell UCC-Congregational Governing Board

Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2020

11:30 am –12:50pm 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

- June 17 Governing Board meeting minutes: **Approved** by unanimous consent.

Reports/Updates

Treasurer

- Our most recent official report indicates that income is running about \$16,000 behind the budget year to date. This is not an area of concern at this time. Some of this is offset by expenses running behind budget as well. 3rd quarter pledge statements are going out. It is typical for pledges to be fulfilled only at the end of the year.
- There was a cash flow issue related to the preschool. There was a need for cash on hand for the preschool bathroom renovation, coinciding with a payment on our roof repair, and compounded by delayed payments from the school system for preschool payroll. A credit line needed to be increased slightly to resolve this situation.
- Motion: Approve increase of the church credit card limit from \$2500 to \$4000. (Johnson/Rodrigues) **Motion carries.**
- **Update 29 September:** Preschools funds due from school district have been received. The budget is now on track to cover all preschool expenses.

Pastor

- See attached report for additional details.

Old Business

Covid 19 Task Force Report

- Poweshiek County is currently experiencing 42 cases per 100,000 people. As a reference, 10 cases per 100,000 is considered the threshold for worrisome spread. More regular in-person gatherings are not a safe option at this time.
- The outdoor, distanced, and masked back to school blessing was a success, and we are planning a pet blessing for October.
- As the weather gets colder, we will be creative about new forms of gathering.

Open Business

Review of the draft 2021 budget

- The draft budget proposes a significant cut to expenses. The hope is to make the most realistic possible ask to members in a difficult time for many.
- The budget was drafted on a conjecture that we would be back in the building no earlier than March.
- Payroll costs reflect voluntary hour reductions by Ken and Elizabeth.
- We need to be prepared to evaluate the budget and our asks of the congregation as new conditions arise.
- The governing board is in support of the proposed budget and thankful to Pastor Jessica and other staff members for their work to reach this thoughtful proposal.
- Pastor Jessica will continue to work with Elizabeth to finalize details before it is presented to members during stewardship month.

New Business

Central Association Meeting

- John and Terese attended. Roughly 15 churches were represented.
- Topics included a survey of membership on what the association should be doing, better communication between congregations (not just ministers), and state of the church.

Henry Rietz's Ecclesiastical Council

- Henry is moving toward scheduling an Ecclesiastical Council to proceed toward ordination. This may take place later this year or early next year.
- Henry will meet with the governing board to discuss what a call in our church might look like for him.

Pastoral Care partnership with Newton UCC

- Newton UCC is entering a search and call process. Given the restrictions on in-person gatherings and the extra challenges of relocation, they are pursuing options other than calling an interim minister at this time.
- Their leadership has reached out to our church to explore options for a pastoral care partnership. The governing board is open to such a relationship to

the extent that it does not create additional ongoing responsibilities for Pastor Jessica. Providing ministerial support for emergent needs may be something we can support Pastor Jessica to take on.

- We are able to continue sharing our worship services with them indefinitely.

Question from Outreach

- Kelsey Sandeno reached out to Terese about the guidelines for using money allocated to global needs. The revised guidelines for Outreach were developed to encourage flexibility, so it seems likely that there is room for new thinking about how global needs are defined. If a global need is also local, for example, would these funds be appropriate to use?
- Ross will reach out to Kelsey for further conversation.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Rodrigues, clerk