

Grinnell UCC-Congregational Governing Board

Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2020

11:30am-12:35pm 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

- September 27 Governing Board meeting minutes: **Approved** by unanimous consent.

Reports/Updates

Treasurer

- Prior month's financials are still under review, so there is no update at this time.
- The Endowment has approved a motion to adopt proposed Bylaw changes. See Annual Meeting discussion below for further information.

Pastor

- Please see attached report.
- Discussed supporting Pastor Jessica as she tries to figure out how to support us during social distancing. Without the feedback provided by regular in-person interaction, it is difficult to assess if pastoral needs are being met. The Board affirmed that we see and appreciate Pastor Jessica's efforts to reach out. We are not hearing from fellow members about needs that are not being met, but we also know that doesn't mean there aren't any. We discussed strategies for checking in, including a survey on worship preferences and communication preferences.

Old Business

Pastoral Care partnership with Newton UCC

- Pastor Jessica's most recent conversations with Newton UCC have indicated that their desired scope of service goes beyond what was initially discussed. She does not feel that this scope of duties is sustainable given her current duties. She has declined to form a partnership at this time and agreed to refer qualified people who may be interested.

Open Business

Stewardship letter and update – John

- John shared that the letter is just about ready to go out. The outreach strategy for this year's campaign is being developed. Everyone is working to be both effective in meeting the challenges of a stewardship campaign in a socially distanced context while not creating additional burdens for anyone involved. The November newsletter will be stewardship-focused, and it will be incorporated into the month's worship activities.
- A Pie-to-Go Day is being planned for the conclusion of the campaign.

Nominating Committee update – Josh

- Josh provided an overview of positions that will need candidates. He will soon be confirming if people plan to continue through the next year of their term. We know for sure that we will need to identify candidates for positions on Endowment Committee and Moderator-elect.

New Business

Outdoor Gatherings during the winter months

- Outdoor gatherings are currently planned for November and December. Pastor Jessica asked the Board for input on whether they should be planned for January through March. The Board concurred that it would be good to plan to hold them, weather permitting.

Annual Meeting

- The next annual meeting is January 24, 2021 and will be held on Zoom.
- Call to Meeting needs to be issued no later than January 10, but given that some people may want to participate who have not yet set up Zoom, more lead time will be needed to make sure all who are able can attend.
- Quorum is 20% of members. We think we will be able to reach this on Zoom. The bigger concern is making sure everyone who wants to participate can.
- The Endowment Committee has proposed an amendment to the by-laws. The purpose of this amendment is to bring endowment policy in line with the contemporary financial context (low interest, low dividends) and to provide room for prudent flexibility in using endowment funds in support of the church's mission. Keir presented the language and rationale to the Board.
- In order for this to be presented and voted on at the Annual Meeting, the Governing Board will need to vote to put it on the agenda.

- Resolution was tabled until next Governing Board meeting to give time for consideration.
- Board members will review meeting minutes from earlier in the year to determine if there are any additional policy proposals that need to be considered at the Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Rodrigues, clerk