

Grinnell UCC-Congregational Governing Board

Meeting Minutes

Sunday, February 21, 2021

12-1:00 pm via Zoom

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

Opening Devotions

Approval of minutes

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

Reports/Updates

Treasurer

- Church continues to be on a sound financial footing.
- Programming expenses are not currently showing because they are on credit cards not yet due.
- Keir notes that in current practice, endowment assets are not reflected on monthly financial reports. They are updated on a quarterly basis under the general assets line. Keir plans to be more intentional about sharing that specific information

Pastor

- See attached report.
- Jessica also shared that national leadership is encouraging congregations to develop a two-way covenant—what churches can expect from pastors and what pastors can expect from their churches. She anticipates working on this over time with the Pastor Relations Committee.

Covid status

- The I-80 corridor infection rates appear to be coming down but remain dangerously high.

Reflect on Annual Meeting

- The meeting went smoothly, and feedback from members has been positive.

Reflect on Zoom worship

- Pastor Jessica and Elizabeth have worked hard to make these happen and they are going very well. We are grateful!
- The technical support team needs more members to share the load. Specifically, this involves managing screen sharing, room entry, and chat on Sunday mornings. John will follow up to try to get the worship zoom tech calendar filled in a bit farther out. Ross and Dave Eberbach agreed to be on the volunteer list.

Old Business

Stewardship Update

- 63 pledges, at \$244,000.

Nominating Committee Update

- Terese will be leading the Nominating Committee going forward.

Safe church policy task force

- We may need to revisit task force membership.
- There are draft policy documents nearing completion. Ross and Jessica have some of the draft documents and will forward to board to be available for next meeting. As of Sunday, Ross had already forwarded what he has.
- This will be on our agenda to discuss again in the near future.

Future of music ministry task force

- Bringing new board members up to speed: this task force initially reflected known needs on the horizon regarding staffing, maintenance of the organ, and fit of programming to congregational needs.
- Given the constraints of online worship and the difficulty of having any kind of a congregational conversation, we plan to table this until we are meeting in person again.

Open Business

Discussion on preschool and subsequently Children's Choir as official ministry-entities of the Church and the Governing Board needs to maintain sufficient, unobtrusive oversight.

- How can the board best maintain oversight?
 1. Have minutes of both forwarded from Elizabeth to be included regular, as part of Governing Board Meetings.
 2. Have Preschool and Children's Choir liaison attend governing board meetings twice a year

3. Julie Eberbach was going to contact Erin for Choir and JeanAnne for preschool to discuss this.

New Business

Music copyright & livestreaming

- John has been in communication with national counsel about how to avoid infringement.
- We have identified and acquired a licensing and royalty service to help us manage the process.

Closing Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Rodrigues, clerk