

Grinnell UCC-Congregational Governing Board

Meeting Minutes

Sunday, Apr 25, 2021

12:00-12:42 pm via Zoom

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

Opening Devotions (Jessica)

Approval of minutes: Postponed until next month.

Reflection on March 28, 2021 meeting: See statement by Henry Rietz on behalf of the Pastoral Relations Committee appended below.

Reports/Updates

Treasurer

- Keir is out of town this weekend and has submitted the following in writing:

“Contribution income was \$20,726 in March, against the budget of \$20,500. Year to date contributions of \$54,306 are behind budget because of the \$8,000 negative variance in February.

All other Church operation expenses are in line with budget subject to timing issues. Employee health insurance payments in March exceed the monthly budget but even out over the course of the year.”

- Pastor Jessica also notes that we are within \$21,000 of repaying the loan from the endowment that we undertook for the bathroom renovations. It is projected this will be entirely paid off by September.

Pastor

- Some in-person pastoral care has been able to resume, and that is a source of joy.
- Please also see attached report.

Old Business

Copyright reporting

- Ken and Elizabeth are keeping close track of this. Music used so far has been either public domain or licensed through One License. Pastor Jessica will confirm with Elizabeth that usage that needs to be reported to One License has been reported.

New Business

- The moderator group has set up a monthly small group meeting with Pastor Jessica on third Wednesdays. These meetings will facilitate planning for the governing board agenda.

- Governing board meetings will continue to be held on fourth Sundays.
- Pentecost planning: For Pentecost the church is planning an outdoor event. On Pentecost Sunday morning a 9 am email will go out confirming that either we will be having the outside event, or because of inclement weather the event has been postponed.
- There has been some discussion of planning for Seekers to meet in person, but there are members of this group who are only able to participate in Zoom format. They are looking into hybrid options, which may also be something we need to pursue for worship. Some considerations include planning traffic flows in and out of the sanctuary, opening windows, spacing out pew seating, and placing multiple cameras to capture different areas of the sanctuary.
- The Pre-School asked if they could schedule their pre-school graduation on May 19th in our Sanctuary. In light of the fact that pre-schools are functioning in some ways as a single family cohort (i.e. all of them are around each other so much anyway that no additional risk is incurred), we have given them the go ahead. We will be working with them on how to plan this.

Closing Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Liz Rodrigues, clerk

Addendum:

Reflection on 3/28 Board Meeting

The PRC (Pastoral Relations Committee) facilitated a constructive conversation between John Ashby and Pastor Jessica. In the absence of a behavioral covenant, we used THRIVE principles to guide our conversation. Both John and Pastor Jessica acknowledged their missteps, graciously heard and affirmed each other, and have identified steps forward.

Review of THRIVE Principles

Talk to improve transparency;

Health and safety must remain a top priority for our entire community;

Re-imagine and reconsider what is possible;

Inclusion requires flexibility;

Value all experiences of vulnerability;

Empathy requires all of us — and especially leaders — to be aware, sensitive, and responsive.