

Grinnell UCC-Congregational Governing Board

Meeting Minutes

Sunday, August 22, 2021

12:00-1:10-pm in Person Seekers Room and/or via Zoom

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

Opening Devotions (Jessica)

Approval of minutes

5 23 2021 and 6 27 2021 Governing Board minutes: Approved by unanimous consent.

Reports/Updates

Treasurer

- We are behind budget as is usual for this time of year, although slightly more behind than we were at the same point last year. However, there is no particular crisis or reason for concern at this point.

Pastor

- See written report (attached).
- Sunday School planning is proceeding and a preliminary plan has been communicated to parents, with the understanding that it could change at a moment's notice.
- Pastoral care and community connection remains a focus.

New Covid Letter Regarding Re-Opening Process

- Pastor Jessica has requested the task force to draft a letter that provides an overview of possible responses in the case of emergent scenarios.
- John shared a draft of such a letter with the board prior to this meeting.

Motion: Send the letter as drafted with minor grammatical edits to the congregation on behalf of the board (Ashby/Grant): motion carries.

New Business

Stained glass window repair

- Existing need (identified five years ago) for maintenance was exacerbated by derecho damage.

- Usage this summer has highlighted urgent need for maintenance on east facing windows, as they are no longer able to be opened and closed.
- Currently, maintenance is required for the parts of the windows that protect the stained glass. If the stained glass itself is damaged, costs will be much higher.
- The Brick and Mortar fund is available for capital improvements (see minutes from January 16, 2019). Because this fund is part of the endowment, our next step will be to forward a proposal to the Endowment Committee.

Motion: Forward a proposal to repair the stained glass windows using the Brick and Mortar fund to the Endowment Committee (Grant/Dillon): motion carries.

Organ repair

- While the organ needs substantial repairs and upgrades, there are a handful of small repairs that could be done for a more feasible amount in the near term that would improve performance in important ways.
- We do not currently have an estimate for these repairs, but we anticipate having one after the annual fall assessment.
- There is currently a budget line allocated to the bell choir, which has not been used for some time. We already have bells, related equipment, and music, so there is not a near-term need for this particular budget line.
- The board discussed if allocating funds to the organ is premature given the ongoing work of the future of the music ministry task force. The general sense is that these are a relatively limited set of repairs that would positively impact music ministry now.
- Transitioning the bell choir budget line to a more general instrument or instrument repair line item would put us in a position to move forward with these repairs if the cost is feasible.

Motion: Reallocate bell choir budget line (currently \$1,164.74) to a newly created budget line, the music ministry repair instrument fund (Ashby/Haenfler): motion carries.

Open Business

Update on live and livestreaming Worship

- It is going well! There are now 4 volunteers trained to do it.

Update on live and livestreaming Seekers

- This is also going well.

Closing Prayer – Jessica

Respectfully submitted by Liz Rodrigues, clerk

