

Grinnell UCC-Congregational Governing Board

Meeting Minutes

Sunday, July 7, 2022

12:00- - pm via Zoom

Members present: Julie Eberbach, Troy Dillon, Liz Rodrigues, John Ashby, Jessica Margrave Schirm (ex-officio)

Opening Devotions (Pastor Jessica)

Approval of agenda

Approval of minutes

Postponed (Liz has not prepared them yet.)

Reports/Updates

Treasurer Report (John)

- Financials are in a good position overall. Pledge receipts are a little lower than typical for June. John is going to look into this.
- The Endowment Committee meets next week. The market has taken a major downturn this year. We should be prepared if concerns are raised.

Pastors's Report (Pastor Jessica)

- Our new Director of Outreach and Education Lindsay ?? has started her position part time. She will move to full time when her commitment to Americorps ends.
- Ken Davis has submitted an official retirement date of December 31, 2022.
- Pastor Jessica notes some changes being considered at the level of the Iowa Conference; specifically, moving away from geographically-determined Associations. John added some detail about this also being motivated by the need to reconsider the structure/demands of current committee structure.
- Ross shared his delight in seeing Pastor Jessica beginning to undertake her doctoral study.
- Please also see attached report.

Old/open business

Update on Stain glass Window Repairs

- Maintenance work is proceeding. There was additional damage found when the contractors were actually able to get in and see the extent of work

needed. This led to an additional \$5,000 cost. This will be half covered by insurance, and the remaining amount will come out of our existing Brick & Mortar funds.

Update/Hiring of Director of Education and Outreach

- Lindsay will soon start to reach out for coffees/chats with members and families to get to know our needs better.

Report on Ordination/Call of Henry

- Henry Rietz is fully ordained and installed! All official paperwork is signed and filed.

New business

Ken Davis Retirement – Music Director/Ministry Task Force

- Next steps: We considered if we should reconvene the previously established Task Force (which was appointed right before the pandemic started). However, the situation has changed substantially in multiple ways. It makes sense to at least check in with where people are at in terms of desires for the future of music ministry at our church, and to make sure anyone serving on the task force have both passion for the questions at hand and availability for this work. A couple of other folks have also actively expressed interest since then.
- We see value in working with a consultant in this process of imagining and realizing the future direction of our music ministry. Ross has worked with Sarah Dan Jones in a prior congregation and was impressed (<https://sarahdanjones.com/home>).
- We imagine that the task force will focus on defining future directions and that the work of scheduling music in the interim will be led by Pastor Jessica.
- **Before next meeting:** review the prior charge and develop a set of action items for this charge.

Live Stream Equipment Update

- Livestreaming is going well and is well-received. It is highly valued by those who use it even if the number of viewers is typically small.
- We put together equipment to make this work, but now that we know we want to keep doing it, we should consider working toward a more cohesive and up-to-date set of tools.
- Those who have been working as the tech team will be talking over needs and costs for investments in this area.

- This is also good timing considering changes in music ministry forthcoming. We will need a more powerful and flexible set of tools to capture more varied types of music.

Community Support for Immigrants (CoSI)

- Access to spaces this group has previously relied on has changed. In particular, CoSI does not currently have access to a function kitchen.
- John, as a CoSI leader, inquired about our church's potential to host on an as-available basis.
- Pastor Jessica enthusiastically supports this.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Rodrigues, clerk