

Country Club Christian Church

Congregational Board Meeting Minutes April 10, 2018

Attending – Jennifer Austenfeld, Leeann Blundell, Brian Campbell, Lynn Cockle, Tepring Crocker, Hannah Fenley, David Foresee, Jeff Gibbs, Esther Giffin, Scott Glasrud, Pat Martin, Jen Parker, Erin Parkinson, Deb Plucknett Amy Rose, Mike Schaefer, Lauren Weinhold,

Not Attending – Steve Bough, Karen Carlson-Cook, Bruce Erickson, Kathy McDandel, Courtney Sullivan, Jim Wells, Travis Wymore

Staff: Rev. Carla Aday, Dr. Dina Evans, Carla Rauth

Opening Prayer

Mike Schaefer opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Scott Glasrud, Board Chair, asked the Board whether there were any amendments or corrections to the items on the consent agenda. Noting no changes, a motion to approve the consent agenda, including the February 13, 2018 Minutes and the Dashboard Reports from February and March, was approved unanimously.

Bylaw Revisions, Feb. 25th Congregational Meeting

Mr. Glasrud thanked the board for their participation in the congregational meeting on Feb. 25 where the bylaw revisions were presented. Notes from that meeting's discussions were provided to each board member. Mr. Glasrud reported that a summary of the notes will be provided to the board for review at the May meeting and subsequently to the congregation. Copies of the new bylaws, as approved unanimously at the April 8 congregational meeting, were provided to all board members.

Senior Minister Report

Rev. Carla Aday presented the following:

Holy week and Easter included 10 baptisms, egg hunt, FBI Funeral, and over 1000 attendance on Easter Sunday.

Worship – Challenges

Two groups are not clearly visible in worship 1) families and 2) younger adults. The 10 am service is full, the 11am service is “fullish.” The 9am service is shrinking. The outdoor services in the summer show an increase in attendance. We would like to capture that “feel.”

Current situation for families: No service focuses on families worshipping together. No children's sermon at 9, Sunday school at 10, and the 11am children's choir is concurrent. So visiting families might assume we don't have families. But we do.

The Worship Task Force is proposing is that we design a 9 am service that is friendly to families with children, as well as those who currently attend that time, with rollout hopefully in fall of 2018.

This could include:

- Music consistent with our progressive theology but accessible to children
- Teach children the worship songs in Sunday school
- Restore a Children's Moment to the service
- Have a child read the Scripture each week
- Restore the blessing of children during Communion for those not partaking
- Find ways to involve families more (lighting of candles, carrying in Bible)
- Children's choir sings one time a month, same for youth choir
- Children depart before sermon for choir and crafts related to message
- Clergy dressing more casually to make service more inviting

The propose launching the service with same methods for a new church start: Invite 40 families to attend the service 3 times a month for 6 months.

Committee Members: from all three services, variety of age groups, board members, one non-member

Randy Irely
Leslie Tenjack
Mike Schaefer
Dina Evans
Carla Aday
Paul Tucker
Jayson Parker
Jenny Hobick
Erin Feitz
Lynn Cockle
Deb Plucknett
Shelle Jensen
Catherine Stark-Corn

Centennial Celebration Plans

Background: The congregation began meeting in the fall of 1920 in Brookside in rented space. In January of 1921 the first worship service was held, Dr. Combs preaching and 70 joining! Therefore our Centennial Celebration will occur during the fiscal year 2020-2021. Leeann Blundell, Past Board Chair, began planning this over a year ago. Scott Glasrud has been working to recruit leaders for this pivotal moment in the history of the congregation.

Leadership:

Chairpersons: Peter and Lesley Holt

Honorary Chairpersons:

Capital Campaign Chairperson:

Building Chairperson:

Events Chairperson:

History Chairperson:

Next Steps:

In the coming weeks, the members of the Centennial Steering Committee will be appointed. They will meet to propose a timeline of events and begin recruiting their team members.

Stewardship – Campaign is in process with Jeff Gibbs and Dina Evans’ leadership with a focus on generosity.

Rev. Aday then asked Dr. Evans to report on additional administrative matters including new outdoor security lighting, completion of the video surveillance system (with thanks to Atronic Alarms), progress on the youth center renovations, and the new tech committee that will be forming. Dr. Evans reported that the auction met budgeted target of \$46,000 net and next year’s event will be held at Boulevard again. Staff are developing 2018-19 budgets and stewardship campaign will begin April 15, completing on May 6. Dr. Evans thanked Jeff Gibbs, chair, and Lauren Weinhold for their leadership.

Dr. Evans reported on the Endowment Committee’s efforts to increase giving to the Church’s endowment fund, which includes working with Bill Eckert, a planned giving consultant, on donor education and gift implementation program.

Personnel Report

Jennifer Parker, Personnel Chair, reported that the Youth Minister Search Committee, chaired by Steve Bough, has received nine applications and has scheduled interviews with the top three candidates to be held on April 28. Ms. Parker reported that the committee hopes to make a recommendation in May.

Open Question Discussion: How is our church culture exclusive and how might we become more open?

Esther Giffin stated that the exclusive name produces division, due to history of segregation and racism in the Country Club neighborhood. Ms. Giffin reported that a neighboring church recently changed their name to remove ‘Country Club’ due to this stigma.

Leeann Blundell provided a summary of the Country Club Christian Church Branding Project results as reported at the State of the Church in Jan. 2015. The task force began work in 2013 on a “Name and Identity Investigation.” An outside firm conducted extensive surveys and found that the name was not wildly popular, but also not strongly disliked. It showed that name was an extremely unimportant consideration in church selection, next to the last of 20 factors. Recommendations that were unanimously adopted by the board were retaining the current name and improving marketing.

Mr. Glasrud thanked them for their input and then encouraged Board members to divide into two groups to address the open question using the suggested questions provided. See discussion summary attached. Further discussion of this question will continue at the May board meeting.

Adjournment

Seeing no further business, Mr. Glasrud called the meeting to a close. Rev. Aday provided a closing prayer.

Attachment:

Congregational Board Meeting 4/10/18

Discussion Summary

Open Question Notes: How is our church culture exclusive?

Group 1:

- Assume Christian (unchurched)
- Spirituality to Christianity Pathway
- Unchurched – Baptism opportunity
- Cost barrier to event participation
- Public space/education aesthetics (lacks amenities for social)
- Welcoming alternative lifestyle couples
- Outside service helps overcome building perception of exclusivity

Group 2:

- How do you get involved and contribute – navigate after you connect here
- Visually appears homogeneous (socioeconomic, age, race)
- We come across as intellectual – intimidating
- Hymnal and read music – could be a barrier to some
- Choir sounds “professional”
- Geographic – zip code
- Visual – “valet” parking cones and crossing guard
- People don’t know what “Disciples of Christ” are

Open Question Notes: How might we become more open?

Group 1:

- Participation in NE partnerships on key issues
- Convener of “safe” discussion of community/beyond issues
- Family worship option
- Capital campaign focus on public space/education
- Mission Partnership Opportunities (Corey)
- Family service projects
- Alternative spring break

Group 2:

- Create opportunities outside of worship – concert, event, etc.
- Invite a friend
- Perception worse than reality
- Survey on website to help match people
- DOC is open minded and few barriers
- Help people overcome their expectations
- DATA: Is our per capita income higher or lower than COR, for example?
- Maximize parlor, pew, radio, brochure – to invite folks back
- Virtual link in print letters
- Visitor video – intro

- Train people to speak to people they don't know
- 9am service – no hymnal or bulletin
- Music program to fill pews – need church greeters
- Dog biscuits and water for dogs
- Hospitality for runners
- Speak to visitors – goal: 7 people say hi
- Overcome temporary incompetence (coffee, where to walk, let me show you)