

# Country Club Christian Church

Congregational Board Meeting Minutes January 8, 2019

**Attending** – Jennifer Austenfeld, , Lynn Cockle, Tepring Crocker, Bruce Erickson, Scott Glasrud, Anne Hoffman, Pat Martin, Mary McClure, Erin Parkinson, Mike Schaefer, Courtney Sullivan, Lauren Weinhold, Jim Wells, and Jeff Zimmerman

**Not Attending** – Brian Campbell, Karen Carlson-Cook, Hannah Fenley, David Forsee, Jeff Gibbs, Deb Plucknett, Travis Wymore

**Member:** Steve Rogers

**Staff:** Rev. Corey Meyer, Dr. Dina Evans, Carla Rauth

## *Opening Prayer*

Pat Martin, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 and Tepring Crocker opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

## *Approval of Consent Agenda*

Ms. Martin 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 November 13, 2018 Minutes and the Dashboard Report from November, was approved unanimously.

## *Security*

Steve Rogers, asked by Rev. Carla Aday to study the church's security, gave an update on the security plans. Mr. Rogers, with Jason Ashley, Dr. Dina Evans, and Rev. Carla Aday, learned best practices from reviewing other organizations' safety plans and consulting with Sgt. Steve Schramm from the Kansas City Police Department. They have developed recommendations and several have already been implemented for Christmas services. By Easter they hope to have the plan in place. Ms. Martin expressed appreciation to Mr. Rogers and Jason Ashley for their efforts.

## *Personnel Committee Report*

Mary McClure, Personnel Chair, reported that Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn has agreed to join the staff in a permanent role as Minister to Children and Families. A motion to approve the change in position was passed unanimously and enthusiastically.

## *Board Self-Review*

Ms. McClure presented a mid-year Board Self-Evaluation Form. The Board discussed governance and made various suggestions about what is working and possible improvements. The Board agreed to the format/process of the evaluation and to do an in-depth evaluation near the end of the fiscal year.

## *Vision of Ministry*

Ms. Martin reviewed the progress on the first open question for 2018-2019: How will our church respond to the continuing presence of injustice in our community?

Mike Schaefer reported that the Social Justice Sub-Committee, that included Hannah Fenley, Jennifer Austenfeld, and Jeff Zimmerman, explored the outcome from the last meeting: Become a place where people clarify their thinking about the realities of life in the wider community. The results are included as an attachment to the minutes.

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Ms. Martin divided the Board into 2 discussion groups for feedback and two main points emerged:

How does 'explore' lead to 'do'?

What is 'personal' vs 'congregation' involvement with social justice?

Ms. Martin thanked the sub-committee for their work.

### *Adjournment*

Ms. Martin reminded the board that nominations will begin soon, the Elder/Deacon Spiritual Retreat is Feb. 2, and the Auction is on March 8. The Senior Minister report was distributed and is attached. Seeing no further business, Ms. Martin called the meeting to a close at 8:10. Rev. Corey Meyer provided a closing prayer.

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## **Attachment: C4KC Social Justice Sub-Committee Draft Vision of Ministry**

It has been said that law students are told that the purpose of their schooling is not to learn about the law but to think like lawyers. In much the same way, our continuous study of Christianity is not merely to learn about the Bible and its laws and precepts but to think like Christians.

We hold that one precept of Country Club Christian Church and the way our congregation thinks as Christians is to work for justice not merely to work for charity. Towards this guiding principle we pose the following statement of faith:

Our congregation will help our members, friends and community to clarify how our faith is calling us to address issues of injustice through an exploration of what is worth doing and the root issues of what challenges us in the arenas of social justice.

The vision we find arising from that principle is that we want Country Club Christian Church to be a catalyst for change in our city.

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**Attachment: Senior Minister Report, January 8, 2019, Rev. Carla Aday**

## **Centennial:**

During January and February the Centennial Gifts Committee and I will conduct Centennial Conversations with a sampling of members and groups. The purpose will be to listen more carefully for the insights of the congregation as we begin to focus our plans for the Centennial. One conversation will take place at the Elder Deacon Retreat on February 2 and there will be one on a Sunday open to all.

## **Christmas:**

The music, the special events, the hospitality, and the mission of this congregation in December were truly extraordinary. Special thanks to Bob and Marjorie Jump and Judy Knight and the Design Team for decorating the campus. Attendance at all events was strong and the Christmas offering was \$36,000. The 5:30 and 8 pm services used extra chairs and the 11pm service was high in visitors and better attended than last year.

## **Worship:**

Highlights this year included:

- Alex Goering singing at Brass Concert, at worship and on Christmas Eve;
- Guitarist on Christmas Eve commemorating the first Silent Night 200 years ago
- Lauren Weinhold painting the nativity for the prelude at 5:30 service
- Country Club Singers Concert
- Youth and Children's Choirs at Christmas Festival
- 9:01 bass and sax at Family Service on Christmas Eve
- Dina and Paul's leadership

## **Staff:**

The Personnel Committee hosted a wonderful Christmas lunch in appreciation of the staff. The staff enjoyed the party, the afternoon off, the gifts! Thank you for your caring and compassion as they work diligently and faithfully all year long but especially during the holidays! Security remains a high priority and new measures were in place for Christmas. Special thanks to Dina and Jason as well as Steve Rogers for security improvements.

## **Current Year Goals 2018-19:**

- 1. Create new and enhanced entry ways leading to deep Christian engagement and growth.**
  - 9:01 worship service continues strong.
  - New Neighborhood Communion Groups are launching
  - Two adult mission trips upcoming: Ecuador and Puerto Rico
  - Faith Bistro – new program for women meeting regularly
  - New Connections group thriving and exploring possible younger group
  - Service Partners Launched
  - New classes on Monday nights – winter and spring
  - Holy Land Trip – full
  - Community Camp – full and wait list!
- 2. Learn about our potential new members and determine ways we might present ourselves to them.**
  - Staff will be conducting a series of 1-1's this quarter. A Series of Questions has been finalized. Lists of names are being gathered.

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3. **Advance our ministry with 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade students to support their spiritual formation and encourage them to form their own connection to church and faith.**

- Groups now meeting weekly
- Mission trips to Ecuador and Des Moines – sign ups underway
- Tyler building relationships with youth and families
- College Student outreach: Christmas gathering, e-news.

**Report from below:**

Above you find facts but so much of our shared work is about the intangibles expressed by the Spirit. I think of the man I had never met who said on Christmas eve “there is no place in Kansas City to be on Christmas eve than this church.” Or the 2 little boys (ages 3 and 4) who missed December 23 because of the flu but who made handmade cards for their pastors. Or the beaming face of an elderly member who welcomed the youth group carolers. Or the hand written note from a visitor including her check saying “I have not been able to come because of work but am eager to get back in the new year.” God is still calling us to love and serve. Thank you for your leadership.