

Country Club Christian Church  
Congregational Board Minutes March 9, 2021

**Attending via video conference** - Eric Adler, Sara Christensen, Tepring Crocker, Erin Feitz, Karen Gallagher, Anne Hoffman, Phil Howes, Shelle Jensen, Mary McClure, Becky McElduff, Matt Moeder, Kay Moffat, Jayson Parker, Tom Thornton, and Jeff Zimmerman

**Others:** Tim Diebel, Lexie Clark, Keith Saylor, David Forsee, Lesley Holt, Peter Holt

**Staff:** Rev. Carla Aday, Carla Rauth, Lara Schopp

***Welcome and Meditation***

Tepring Crocker, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Jeff Zimmerman gave a meditation on work and leisure from the Life Worth Living class.

***Consent Agenda***

Ms. Crocker asked the Board whether there were any amendments or corrections to the items on the consent agenda. Ms. Crocker noted a correction to the average last month attendance total on the Dashboard report.

A motion to approve the February 9, 2021 Congregational Board Minutes and the Dashboard Report for March 2021, with correction, were approved unanimously.

***The Gifts Campaign Update***

David Forsee, Co-Chair of the Gifts campaign, reported that the lead gifts public campaign will begin soon. Rev. Carla Aday reviewed the goals of the campaign and the project overview, and noted that momentum is mounting. The Next Phase of the Master Plan is the Re-envisioned Social Hall and Kitchen.

Mr. Forsee reviewed the financial update, noting that the Centennial Benchmark is \$8.5 million and the Next Phase Celebration Benchmark is \$11 million. Mr. Forsee reported that currently there are more than \$6.5 million pledge commitments.

Peter Holt, Co-Chair of the Centennial Committee, asked the board to help the ambassadors share the message and enthusiasm for the project and to pray for the Campaign and the next 100 yrs. Dr. Holt recommended extending the goal for The Next 100 Gifts Campaign from the current \$8.5 million to \$11 million.

A motion to increase the goal for The Next 100 Gifts Campaign to \$11 million was unanimously and enthusiastically approved.

Lesley Holt, Co-Chair of the Centennial Committee, gave an overview of the Centennial activities that will be integrated into the life of the church over the next few months, culminating in a Celebration in October 2021.

Ms. Crocker thanked Dr. and Mrs. Holt for their commitment, leadership, and hard work on the Centennial Celebration.

***Senior Minister Report***

Rev. Aday presented the Senior Minister Report, attached, highlighting that attendance is strong and the financial report is positive.

### ***Branding Update***

Lara Schopp, Director of Communications gave an update on the Branding Project that is related to the Board Goal: Activate our congregation, by empowering members, to communicate our unique message through words and deeds to the community.

Ms. Schopp reported that a consultant has been engaged to develop a new tagline, elevator speech, and education campaign that can be used to help members communicate the church's identity to the community. Interviews with members and staff are underway and the project will continue for about 6 weeks. Rev. Aday thanked her for her leadership with this project.

### ***Nominating***

Matt Moeder, Nominating Committee Chair, reported that nominations are open now through March 31 and have been publicized on the website and weekly email. The nominating committee challenged each Board member to nominate at least one person and encourage people to participate in the process.

### ***Personnel***

Mary McClure, Personnel Committee Chair, reported that Eileen Brown, who has been the Interim Executive Director of Operations, will stay through May and the search for a new Executive Director of Operations is starting. Ms. McClure stated that discussions are underway for when and how the staff will return to the building and the committee is looking for ways to give recognition to the staff.

### ***Vision of Ministry***

Ms. Crocker reported that the Board sub-committees met and are planning discussions for upcoming Board meetings.

Rev. Aday welcomed 3 people who have been worshipping virtually to gain input on the open question: What kind of community of faith will CCCC be post-Covid?

- Keith Saylor of St. Louis, a friend of Maureen McGinty,
- Tim Diebel, a friend of Rev. Aday and fellow pastor from Iowa,
- Lexie Clark, a new resident of Kansas City who also participates in the Roots young adult group

Mr. Moeder directed the questions and a summary of their feedback is attached.

Ms. Crocker thanked the guests for their valuable feedback.

### ***Closing Prayer and Adjournment***

Ms. Crocker called the meeting to a close at 8:30pm and Rev. Aday provided the closing prayer.

## **Attachment: Senior Minister Report: March 2021 Carla Aday**

### Dashboard:

- Attendance - Continues above last year
- Finance – Giving is on track.

1) Activate our congregation by empowering our members to communicate our unique message through words and deeds to the community.

- Life Worth Living Course - participants from across the country, various religious backgrounds and ages
- Branding Project - Lara Schopp

2) Be a catalyst for Change in KC through service projects, partnerships and forums to help us clarify how to faithfully address the root issues of injustice.

- Housing Panel: leaders from city, legal aid and United way
- Easter Offering to focus on root issues of poverty

3) Take the ministry to where people are rather than expecting them to come to us.

- Elder Deacon Retreat
- Lent packets for kids
- Survey Monkey - Sermon input

### Digital Faith Community on Sunday morning:

- Traveling members 1%
- Seniors not driving 2%
- Active members 88%
- Newly active members 1%
- Visitors in town 6%
- Visitors out of town 4%

## Attachment: Summary/Notes - Feedback from Virtual Worshipers

Carla A introduced Keith Saylor, friend of Maureen McGinty, considered family ... worshipping with us in covid virtually from St. Louis.

Matt stated that our Open question is: What kind of community of faith will we be after covid? Especially interested in striking balance between in person and digital.

What drew you to our church?

Keith: Maureen asked them to participate. They appreciated a lot about the church, feel a fit. Now attending, looking forward to the weekly message.

Carla A introduced Tim Diebel, fellow friend, pastor in IA

And Lexie Clark, a new resident of Kansas City who also participates in the Roots young adult group.

She came to Roots ...heard about it during covid. Now she is an active leader in that group. Worships virtually.

What drew you to the church and why is it important?

Lexie: attended a wedding. Visited 2 other churches. Tuned in virtually when she remembered this church.

Tim: He and Carla A are long time friends. Over 20 yrs ago when they came here to hear Wendell Berry speak, it was life changing. Has been intending to come down to worship ... last summer decided to tune in ...locally were dismayed at the lack of good opportunities for worship. Opportunity that became a gift.

Lexie: looked at COR (too big for her) and a Lutheran church in Lawrence (not the demographic/too far away).

Matt: What aspect of our digital programming had the most meaningful impact over the last year:

Keith:

- Production quality superior to any others...even megachurches. Intimate local feel.
- Relevant message/sermon. Remarkably well prepared. Intellectuality of the sermons. Just the right level of wisdom, thought-provoking.
- Personalities of the ministers that shows and the rotation that they do. They are connecting to them as people despite being remote. Storytelling capabilities that they have. All working together to be a draw for us.

Tim:

- Echos what Keith is saying - Artistically and aesthetically executed. That is a valuable contribution to it. Captivates them in worship.
- Incredible staff. Meaningful to us. Well prepared, give message, gets out of the way. Stirring music. The whole of it is spectacular.
- Content of the proclamation. How the parts of the service fit together. Beautifully shared in an unpretentious way. Invites us all in, even though not part of the congregation. Makes them feel part of it.

Lexi:

- Appreciates quality of the production, accessibility of the streaming multiple platforms.
- Her mom streams it on Facebook.
- Timeliness of the message.
- Intellectual church. Important to her.

- Kudos to the Christmas candlelight service. Favorite service of the year. Came very close to being in the sanctuary.
- Huge kudos to Tyler keeping them connected virtually in fellowship with Roots...super creative, strong community.

Tim:

- Loved the breadth of participation.
- Love families reading scripture. Behind the table...prayer from an elder. Represents the congregation not just a handful of experts. Reflects a community of people.

Matt asked about programming:

Tim:

- Brooks/Volf zoom call. Very excited about it. Read books by both of them. Permanent state of virtual participation, will explore other options. Also loved the webinar....wished they could have done the LWL course as well, but had a conflict.

Carla A: Kudos to Lexie for being a small group leader in LWL.

Matt: When we return to in person gatherings: Do you plan to continue with the church? Or rejoin old church? Or other? Would you be digital?

Lexie:

- intends to stay
- Sunday service, will continue to worship--mostly virtually.
- But looks forward to participating in as many in person activities that she can.

Tim:

- will continue to worship with us virtually if it continues.
- When they are in town, will attend, but mostly long distance.

Keith:

- Hard to go back to another church.... If there is an opportunity to continue worshipping virtually, would plan to join every Sunday.
- They travel a lot. Very important that they could connect wherever they are.
- Would also look for other ways to be involved.
- Remarkable that you can go to the website, click and it starts. Kudos to the team making this possible.
- Strategic: opportunity to think beyond something special about the service that can appeal to anyone in the world. Think about this virtual community ... how to sustain and extend it...draw others into it.

Tim underscored that...hopes it is part of your imagination.

Matt thanked them.

Tepring: what does it look like when we can't record ahead...what are the elements you consider critical to keep:

Keith:

- how to bring the cameras close to the music ... balance the intimacy with the people in the pews.

Tim:

- Economical liturgy.... That changes when people are actually in the pew. That is not great from a distance point of view. Not sure how that should be handled. (examples, passing the offering plate, serving communion)
- One of the best things about current broadcast...removes all the things that are not essential.
- Tim: have saved our life during this last year. Thanked them for it.

Lexie

- Agreed with Tim's points.
- Audio quality might be hard to get with live recording.

Keith:

- Worship appeals to all ages of his kids: 17 yr old, junior in HS and 7<sup>th</sup> grader. At first Keith joined, then his wife, then told the kids...now they all look forward to worship. Just right for them.
- Holds their attention. The economy is a feature that holds the attention well, including younger people.

Tepring thanked them for their valuable perspective. Carla A thanked them. Hardest part for her is not being able to talk with people at the door. Magical to hear that the spirit weaves us together.

Additional Board Input:

- The issue of the economy of time/service/production.
- Karen: hard to have a digital community that is not part of our community with us.
- Focus on why we are serving this community/purpose.
- Jeff: intimacy ... other churches broadcast feel more like a rally
- Tepring: surprised at how connected they feel.
- Eric: how do we take out the 'dead spots'? maybe edit before airing?
- Jeff: consider eliminating the 'pass the plate'..... people are contributing in other ways.
- Is there a way to put virtual people's faces in the service?