

Country Club Christian Church
Congregational Board Minutes September 21, 2021

Attending: Jennifer Austenfeld, E.J. Becker, Sara Christensen, Tepring Crocker, Erin Feitz, Dana Flora, Karen Gallagher, Phil Howes, Shelle Jensen, Nancy Lear, Mary McClure, Becky McElduff, Matt Moeder, Kay Moffat, Jayson Parker and Tom Thornton.

Not Attending: Phil Howes

Staff: Rev. Carla Aday, Rachel Clement, Mike Graves, Michelle Herman

Welcome and Meditation

Matt Moeder, Board Chair, called the hybrid meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Shelle Jensen gave the opening meditation.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Mr. Moeder asked the Board whether there were any amendments or corrections to the items on the consent agenda. There were none. The Board unanimously approved a motion to approve the consent agenda including the August 10, 2021 Congregational Board Minutes.

Finance Committee Report and Centennial Campaign Contribution Proposals

Mr. Moeder and Rachel Clement, Director of Finance, gave an overview of the 2020-2021 Year-End Financial Report. Rev. Aday noted the Practical Services expense line is under budget due to expectations of system upgrades as part of renovations connected with the Centennial Campaign. Other usual expenses that were not necessary such as printing bulletins were redirected to community-building activities like the purchase of candles for congregational use during online worship. Nancy Lear applauded the staff for the wise stewardship of resources in exceptional circumstances.

Mrs. Clement walked through available cash on deposit in bank accounts and endowment fund including full transfer of the capital maintenance fund in anticipation of covering unexpected expenses from cash reserves or the endowment fund, with different expectations for maintenance expenses after the system updates as part of the Centennial Campaign. The Finance Committee estimated a monthly fixed expense amount of \$200,000 and recommended designating three months of that amount as cash reserves. The Committee also recommended designating \$25,000 for the 2021-22 budgeted shortfall in income over expenses. The resulting balance was \$308,663 in available cash to contribute to the Centennial Campaign. Rev. Aday said this is an unprecedented positive financial position for the church.

There was discussion about the origins and purpose of the Capital Maintenance Fund of the Endowment Fund. The Centennial Campaign Committee and Finance Committee recommended the Board approve proposed Resolution 1 to transfer the full balance of the Capital Maintenance Fund to the Centennial Capital Campaign and dissolve the Capital Maintenance Fund. The Board unanimously approved a motion to approve Resolution 1 as proposed (Attachment 1).

The Board considered proposed Resolution 2 as recommended by the Finance Committee concerning the treatment of \$145,000 in estimated expenses for upgrading the technology capabilities of the church as capital expenditures. Mary McClure explained Resolution 2. The Board unanimously approved a motion to approve Resolution 2 as proposed (Attachment 1).

The Board considered proposed Resolution 3 recommended by the Finance Committee to allocate \$308,663 as discussed under the Finance Committee Report. The Board unanimously approved a motion to approve Resolution 3 as proposed (Attachment 1).

Mrs. Lear gave a brief overview of endowment funds totaling roughly \$11 million with 70% undesignated

other than for the benefit of the church and its programs. She described efforts of the Endowment Trustees to create special funds with broad designations to avoid hyper-specific designations that can be difficult to fulfill.

Discussion with the Ministers

Dr. Mike Graves, Scholar in Residence/Minister of Spiritual Formation, shared his observations on worship following the effects of the pandemic. Roughly two-thirds of weekly worship attendance is online and one-third in-person since in-person resumed during the summer. He relayed the differences for the clergy and the congregation among recorded worship, live-streamed worship and live in-person worship as well as teaching and spiritual formation. Currently more people worship online than in person, while spiritual formation programming sees more in-person attendance. There was additional discussion about the format of communion and the success of the A Life Worth Living course.

Senior Minister Report

Rev. Aday presented the Senior Minister Report, attached.

5-Year Vision Plan and Board Retreat

Mr. Moeder gave an overview of the consultant and objectives for the Board Retreat and remaining Board year. The goal is to develop 4-5 strategic priorities that will guide the church's ministries and operations for a 5-year period. This would replace the internal visioning process of the Congregational Board. The plan would be developed under coordination of a strategic planning team that would oversee congregational engagement activities and work with the Board to prepare a final report. The proposed timeline concludes with congregational affirmation in summer 2022.

Tom Thornton described improvements to congregational outreach efforts through the Mission Coordination Team and how past capital campaign funds were dedicated.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Mr. Moeder called the meeting to a close at 9:00 pm and Rev. Aday provided the closing prayer.