

Country Club Christian Church
Congregational Board Minutes
October 11, 2022

Attending: Jennifer Austenfeld, E.J. Becker, Kathy Buckley, Sara Engber, Erin Feitz, Dana Flora, J.J. Jones, Phil Klever, Becky McElduff, Glenn Mills, Matt Moeder, Kay Moffat, Tom Thornton

Not Attending: Liz Copeland, Shelle Jensen, Nancy Lear

Staff: Carla Aday, Tulley Beard

Call to Order

Jennifer Austenfeld called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Welcome and Meditation

Kathy Buckley gave the opening meditation based on contentment and the Pando Aspen Clone in Utah.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Austenfeld asked the Board whether there were any amendments or corrections to the items on the consent agenda other than correcting the spelling of Glenn Mills in the August 5th minutes. J.J. Jones asked that the minutes reflect he was not present. The Board unanimously approved a motion to approve the consent agenda including the August 5th Congregational Board Minutes. The corrections were made and posted to the website.

Senior Minister Report

Rev. Carla Aday reviewed the dashboard. Attendance is down compared to this point in 2021, when the building first reopened from the pandemic closure and the congregation celebrated Centennial activities in the first fiscal quarter of 2021-22. In addition, there are more opportunities for travel and conflicting activities this year. Average attendance is higher across all formats than at this time in 2019. Staff is analyzing and responding to attendance via streaming. Streaming is evenly spread across the different streaming access points such as Facebook and You Tube. Rev. Aday added that giving is up compared to last year and below budget.

Rev. Aday discussed the differences for the staff in planning under a 5-year strategic plan as compared to the annual goals with a year of lead time under the prior prioritization system. She shared that the technology investment for streaming has been instrumental in hosting special events.

Looking forward, the congregation will host joint worship with Swope Parkway United Methodist on the first two Sundays in November at the 11 a.m. service. The revised

Centennial construction plans are out for bidding with responses due in November.

Rev. Aday asked for the Board's feedback on the annual report infographics shared at the Elder Deacon meeting as an outreach piece. The feedback was very positive about the infographics being easy to absorb and touching on all aspects of the operations.

Finance Committee Report

Glenn Mills provided the Finance Committee report and shared high level themes from 2021-22. He noted the current year financials demonstrate several impacts of the pandemic and inflation are still evident. This will be part of figuring out the new normal for planning under the Next 5 strategic plan.

Mr. Mills asked about the monthly finance reporting the Board would like to see. Matt Moeder said the current year budget was adopted with the expectation that the Board would revisit the impact of inflation on the budget at mid-year.

Open and Affirming Welcome Statement

Mrs. Austenfeld led the Board in sharing feedback on the welcome statement from small groups the Board members facilitated at the Elder Deacon meeting on September 13th. The common comments were whether the statement should list specific characteristics rather than refer broadly to all people, that the statement is lengthy, and that it was not clear enough why this matter was being brought to the Elders and Deacons now. There was no feedback from the small groups that the welcome statement did not represent the congregation's values or should not be adopted.

The Board discussed the criteria for the Disciples of Christ Open and Affirming Congregation program. Part of receiving the designation is having a public welcome statement. The subcommittee that studied the program learned that it is important to be specific and name characteristics even though it might seem to contradict the message that all are welcome. J.J. Jones said the statement is speaking to the people who are looking to see if this is a place for them. It is aspirational and goes beyond "all means all" to define "all." There were no suggestions from the Board to change the language of the welcome statement.

There was additional discussion on informing the congregation how the welcome statement connects to the Open and Affirming Congregation program and the elements of the program. Mrs. Austenfeld asked for the subcommittee's presentation given to last year's Board be shared with the Board. She said she intends for the Board to take final action on the welcome statement at its November meeting.

Closing Prayer

Mrs. Austenfeld called the meeting to a close at 8:51 p.m. and Rev. Aday gave the closing prayer.