

Country Club Christian Church  
Congregational Board Minutes  
May 9, 2023

**Attending:** Jennifer Austenfeld, E.J. Becker, Kathy Buckley, Liz Copeland, Erin Feitz, Dana Flora, Shelle Jensen, J.J. Jones, Becky McElduff, Glenn Mills, Matt Moeder, Kay Moffat, Tom Thornton

**Not Attending:** Sara Engber, Phil Klever

**Staff:** Rev. Carla Aday, Tulley Beard, Sherri Hill

***Call to Order***

Jennifer Austenfeld called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

***Welcome and Meditation***

Liz Copeland offered a meditation on Acts 2:1-11 describing Pentecost. She led the board in a prayer that the Holy Spirit might guide us on our journey to build a partnership with the Swope Parkway United Church of Christ congregation.

***Consent Agenda***

The Board unanimously approved a motion to approve the consent agenda including the March 21st Congregational Board Minutes.

***Finance Committee Report***

Glenn Mills presented the 3rd quarter financials and reported that approximately 75% of the financial pledges made by the congregation for this fiscal year have been received. He then presented the proposed 2023-2024 budget as recommended by the Finance Committee. He said the Finance Committee found it appropriate to present this budget showing a \$15,000 deficit since there is a projected \$25,000 in net revenue for the current budget year. Some additional considerations for the proposed budget include a 5% increase in contributions in current year actuals over budget and inflation-based increases in salary and employee medical benefit costs. The proposed budget shows another year of summer closure for the childcare center due to construction. Practical services expenses are budgeted to remain flat due to unpredictable needs despite expected savings in systems maintenance due to the Next 100 construction. Increase in church growth expenses reflects consolidation in expenses that have previously been shown in other lines, as well as increases requested to support increased activity under the strategic plan. Sherri Hill and Ms. Austenfeld said the Finance Committee drilled down on every revenue and expense line. Tom Thornton said he supports the increase in church growth expenses and sees this as an investment in the congregation's future. J.J. Jones stated his support for keeping practical services flat because of unknowns connected to construction and the ability to make adjustments based on unexpected outcomes or new issues.

The Board unanimously approved a motion to approve the proposed 2023-24 annual budget.

### ***Strategic Plan Updates***

Ms. Austenfeld announced that AllianceQ, the Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance, confirmed our designation as an Open and Affirming congregation as prepared and approved by the Board earlier this year. AllianceQ recorded this designation as becoming active on January 10, 2023. Ms. Austenfeld also updated the board on actions to build a partnership with Swope Parkway United Christian Church.

### ***Vote on Congregational Meeting via Email***

The Board unanimously approved a motion to conduct a congregational vote via email to approve the annual nomination slate of congregational leadership, elders and deacons.

### ***Nominating Committee Report***

J.J. Jones presented the slate recommended by the Nominating Committee for the 2023-24 year. The Board unanimously approved a motion to approve the slate as recommended.

### ***Senior Minister Report***

Rev. Carla Aday recognized the staff and Board members involved in the budget preparation process, the outgoing Board members who completed their terms, and Ms. Austenfeld and Matt Moeder for their service as Chair and Past Chair. She reviewed key findings from the monthly dashboard. Worship attendance in March and April is down over last year, and giving remains above target for the fiscal year.

### ***The Next 5 Strategic Priorities***

Rev. Aday provided updates on progress toward the Next 5 Strategic Priorities. The church directory was launched and is being used by members and staff. More activities to communicate and celebrate our Open and Affirming designation will be coming in the fall.

Our strategic partnership with Swope Parkway is in the early building stages. Four members of each congregation and the senior ministers have met and will continue to meet to collaborate on the partnership. The three components of this phase of the partnership are worship, relationship building, and education. Three staff members are tasked with working on each of these components in the coming year. Rev. Aday asked the Board to support adding two more CCCC members to the collaborative group. The Board supported this request and the plan to thoughtfully continue the partnership in the coming church year.

Rev. Aday updated the Board on the construction process and summer plans for events and opportunities outside of the building and offsite. The staff is beginning to focus on planning to implement the church growth strategic priorities in the next year.

*Closing Prayer*

Mrs. Austenfeld called the meeting to a close at 8:28 p.m. Rev. Aday gave the closing prayer.