Country Club Christian Church
Congregational Board Minutes
May 12, 2026

Attending: Jean Ayers, Lori Bennett, Chris Christensen, Justin Cottrell, Greg Humphreys, Phil Klever, Mary McClure, Becky McElduff, Glenn Mills, Jen Parker, Emilee VanDyke, Travis Wymore

Not Present: Micah Blair, Marilyn Dreas, James Guthrey

Staff: Rev. Carla Aday, Rev. Bryce Bowers, Tulley Beard

Guests: Marcia Berry, Scott Blakesley

Phil Klever called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and Emilee VanDyke shared an opening meditation from a book called Everything Is a Story.

Proposal from Endowment Trustees

Scott Blakesley introduced a proposal to amend the trust document governing the Endowment Fund ("Endowment Declaration") to permit up to three annual distributions from interest earnings in excess of the existing annual distribution to the congregational operating budget as a stopgap measure to address continuing and growing shortfalls in the congregational operating budget, combined with a dedicated, specific effort to identify options for increasing revenue to better match expenses in the 2027-2028 budget. Mr. Blakesley explained the Endowment Trustees are currently authorized to distribute to the congregational operating budget up to 5% of the average fair market value of the endowment assets in the General Account at the end of the three most recent fiscal years. In the three most recent years, investment experience on the undesignated endowment assets in the General Account has exceeded 10% gain. The proposal is to help balance the budget as necessary to fill the gap between carefully managed expected expenses and expected revenue.

Mary McClure asked if the endowment distribution cap of 5% is considered standard, noting that endowment donors would have been assured that distributions would be capped at 5%. Based on this promise, she would oppose increasing distributions. Mr. Blakesley said the situation leading to this proposal is the gain in excess of 5% from the last three years is earned, undesignated and not being distributed. The proposal would not permit invading the endowment principal or making a distribution greater than the gain that has already been recognized. He noted the Board has approved operating budgets with significant shortfalls in the tens of thousands that may more than double in the next fiscal year's proposed budget. There was further discussion of the basis for budget planning, and the opportunities for additional revenue and conservatively estimating contributions.

Travis Wymore said he was concerned with treating the financial governing documents as malleable because doing so affects the credibility of the Board and the endowment. Mr. Blakesley clarified that the endowment currently provides discretion in the amount of the distribution up to 5% of the amount calculated to be available, and the Endowment Trustees have distributed 5% under the endowment formula in recent years. There is no authority in the Endowment Declaration to distribute any additional amount for a one-time purpose or increase the cap beyond 5% for any purpose.

After further discussion, there was general agreement to consider in advance of the next Board meeting a resolution to amend the Endowment Declaration and establish a long-term financial health committee. To accomplish the proposal as shaped by the discussion, the Board as the governing body of the congregation would resolve to create a special fund of the endowment's General Account excess interest earnings that were not distributed and permit a one-time distribution by the Board limited to the actual Operational Budget shortfall based on a supermajority vote.

Approval of Board Minutes

The Board unanimously approved a motion to accept the March 14th Congregational Board meeting minutes. Rev. Carla Aday reviewed the April dashboard, noting that attendance is on target and contributions were below budget and prior year. Contributions year to date remain above budget and are expected to drop as the Easter offering and other offsetting expenses are paid.

Finance Report

Glenn Mills gave the Finance Report, which tracked the discussion on the April dashboard. The Finance Committee plans to bring the recommended 2026-2027 budget for Board consideration in June.

Nominating Committee Report

Mary McClure went over the recommended slate of congregational and endowment leadership for the upcoming fiscal year. She gave special kudos to Tulley Beard for keeping the process very organized. With Board approval, the nomination slate would next move to a congregational vote on June 5th. The Board unanimously approved a motion to adopt the recommended nomination slate.

Senior Minister Report

Rev. Aday provided an update on significant work especially in the congregational care workload. She commended the music ministry on the talent to choose the right song for the moment. The Endowment Trustees funded a youth ministry intern for the summer.

Regarding the strategic goals, 13 adults and 7 children have joined the congregation since the April meeting. Small groups and activities to engage the unaffiliated are booming. There is active work on diversity and A/V improvements.

Rev. Carla Aday closed the meeting with prayer at 8:24 p.m.