

**Grinnell United Church of Christ – Congregational  
Governing Board Meeting  
Sunday, February 23, 2025  
12:00 noon – 1:12 pm**

Members present: Nancy Brown, Molly Campe, Dorothy Noer, Jean Pendleton, Liz Rodrigues, Kelsey Sandeno, Kelly Sandquist; Pastor Jessica Margrave Schirm

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Kelsey Sandeno after an informal checking in with each other. The agenda for the current meeting with addition of information on the building insurance rider and the January 12, 2025 Governing Board Minutes were approved by unanimous consent. The Annual Meeting Minutes, after making decisions on who made or seconded two motions, were approved by unanimous consent to submit to the congregation for action.

### **Reports/Updates**

Pastor's Report. This report will be sent in the next few days.

Task Force. The task force will be expected to hold two meetings and report to the Governing Board at its May meeting.

**MOTION:** Establish a task force to evaluate the position of the Director of Outreach and Education with the following charge:

- Clarify current duties, responsibilities, and time requirements of the position
- Assess financial feasibility of the role, including can it be funded with our current budget and what options or changes can be made and sustained within budget limits. (Kelly/Dorothy). Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Appoint the following individuals to the task force: Lindsey Altenhofen, Barbara Ashby, Laura Nelson Lof, Dan Rodrigues, Kelsey Sandeno, Jessica Margrave Schirm (Kelly/Molly) Motion carried.

Outreach Ministry Committee. Sarah White will serve as chair of the committee, Lindsey Altenhofen will serve as secretary, and the treasurer position will be dropped. The committee has asked for more collaboration with the Governing Board.

Finance. Kelly reported that we ended January with a loss of only \$50. The quote for an insurance rider (that covers wind and hail damage) that reduces the cost of our building insurance deductible from \$32,000 to \$10,000 is \$1,936/year.

**MOTION:** Approve payment for a building insurance rider to cover wind and hail damage (Kelly/Liz) Motion carried.

### **New Business**

Building Issues. The original galvanized plumbing in the building is rusting out and needs to be replaced. Options include copper piping (quoted at \$26,900) and PEX piping (quoted at \$20,650). Copper has the longer expected life, but PEX is more flexible and recommended for our building.

**MOTION:** Approve replacement of building pipes using money in the Bricks and Mortar Fund within the Endowment (Nancy/Kelsey). Motion carried.

Other building issues include the possible need to repair an air conditioning unit (about \$3,000) if it leaks freon this summer. The chancel lift needs some repair of damage caused by an

electrical surge at a cost of about \$2,500. Buying a surge protector will be considered. This repair will be covered by the Grace Abounds Fund.

Membership Rolls. Nancy will submit a proposal for conducting an update of the church membership rolls for review and approval at the next Governing Board meeting.

Focus on Bylaws and Visioning. Visioning and setting goals for the future are primary responsibilities of the Governing Board (Bylaws, Article V. C. Sec.1). A focus on these responsibilities might take the form of a retreat that could involve other committees of the church. No date or format has been set. Jean will not return to Grinnell until April and needs to be involved in this process.

Goals for 2025. Some initial discussion surfaced several issues that need to be addressed:

- How does one find our live-stream worship service if one is not a member?
- Our social media presence needs to be enhanced, especially in the current political environment where some people may be seeking a welcoming/safe space to worship.
- The quality of our videos needs to be upgraded so the visual image and sound are in sync.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy E. Brown, Clerk

**Next scheduled meeting (note change of date) - Sunday, March 30, 2025 at 11:45 am**