

**Grinnell United Church of Christ – Congregational
Governing Board Meeting
Sunday, March 30, 2025
11:50am – 1:10 pm**

Members present: Molly Campe, Dorothy Noer, Jean Pendleton, Liz Rodrigues, Kelsey Sandeno, Kelly Sandquist; Lindsey Altenhofen
Member absent: Nancy Brown

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Kelsey Sandeno after an informal checking in with each other. The agenda for the current meeting and the February 23, 2025 Governing Board Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Reports/Updates

Pastor's Report. Pastor Jessica recently defended her Doctor of Ministry thesis and is taking vacation time this week. Pastor's reports for February and March are forthcoming.

Outreach Ministry Committee. Lindsey shared committee discussions about supporting Community Support for Immigrants (COSI). The committee has decided to contribute \$1000 from the local outreach budget and \$1000 from the global outreach budget, for a total of \$2000. Ideas for generating donations in addition to an amount given by outreach, such as a matching campaign with individual members, were discussed. Lindsey is consulting with John Ashby as a COSI liaison on the feasibility of this idea.

Lindsey also provided a grant income update. Two grants were awarded this past week: the Poweshiek County Alliance awarded \$4000 for Suds of Love and the Central Iowa Association awarded \$2000 for OWL.

Lindsey is in discussion with Ryan Solomon who coordinates community engagement programs for students. We have been approved for college funding for Grinnell College students as assistant facilitators for the next OWL session. This will alleviate at least \$2000 toward the cost of the OWL program.

Campbell Fund money for Suds of Love vouchers was put to use quickly. Lindsey is working with the city administrators of the Campbell Fund to determine how often we can reapply for funds.

Finance. Kelly reported that we ended the month of February with a \$3,000 loss. Although expenses are about \$4,000 lower year to date than anticipated, income is also lower. Part of this is typical lag in pledge income and part is due to the addition of grant income to the expected income each month. Even when grants are successful, income lags behind due to administrative time. Due to the cost of the galvanized plumbing coming in much lower than first quote (around \$8,000 in total) our Brick and Mortar Fund will end the month around \$23,000.

Continuing Business

Building Issues. Kelsey suggested putting together a maintenance/replacement road map for building systems.

Focus on Bylaws and Visioning. Discussion of possible vision/goal setting retreat postponed.

New Business

Membership Rolls. Nancy has submitted a draft proposal and letter to facilitate review of membership rolls, which has been revised with edits suggested by the governing board over email. Board members discussed additional ways of refining the list of members considered out of contact. Ideas included paying special attention at the upcoming Easter service and making sure to do the outlined step of personal outreach as a first pass for people that are known by governing board members, especially those whose presence has been missed since the pandemic. We might also want a letter focused on updates and a warm welcome back for this latter group.

MOTION: **Accept and move forward with proposal presented by Nancy Brown, clerk to review membership rolls (Sandeno/Sandquist) Motion carried.**

Board letter for newsletter. Kelsey asked for input on what to include in a letter to the congregation to be included in the newsletter, in an effort to improve board communication with the congregation. The plan is to review letters from last year to make sure we provide updates on issues communicated over the last year. Lindsey suggested a reminder that we are planning to celebrate 25 years of being an open and affirming church during June and that the work of the Director of Outreach and Education task force is ongoing.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Rodrigues, Past Moderator

Next scheduled meeting - Sunday, April 27, 2025 at 11:45 am