

**Grinnell United Church of Christ – Congregational
Governing Board Meeting
Sunday, July, 2023
12:05 – 12:30 pm**

Members present: Ross Haenfler, Jean Pendleton, Liz Rodrigues, Molly Campe;
Pastor Jessica Margrave Schirm
Members absent: Julie Eberbach, Nancy Brown

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Ross Haenfler after an informal checking in with each other.

MOTION: Approve agenda as distributed. Approved by unanimous consent.
MOTION: Approve Minutes of the June 4, 2023 Governing Board meeting.
Approved by unanimous consent.

Reports/Updates

Financial: Pledges are on pace year-to-date, and cash flow is good.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor Jessica highlighted the launch of Suds of Love. She and the rest of the staff are excited for the first run of it this week. It has already received generous financial support and has a full slate of volunteers for the first night. Pastor Jessica and Lindsey are looking at grants for future support as well.
- Pastoral care has been called upon quite a bit recently, so Pastor Jessica is making sure the Care Connections team is in the loop despite the summer being a time they don't tend to meet. Ross expressed interest in being part of visits if that would help the team. Molly brought up possible connections to local student council and their service projects.
- Lindsey will most likely be working with us through the end of the calendar year. This is a great boon for continuity in getting the program year started.
- See also attached Pastor's Report.

Building repairs: Window repair related to both hail and sealing the chancel windows started this week and is nearing completion. Contractors for the roof are in process of providing estimates. With cash flow being strong, the deductible has not been a problem. In consultation with the moderators, Pastor Jessica is suggesting that we do not pursue a special appeal for the deductible funds and stay focused on a planned giving initiative.

Music ministry: Liz and Shane Estes have been working on scheduling organists/accompanists and hymn selection for the summer. Next steps are to work with John Rommereim and others to plan more concretely for choir and children's music activities in the Fall.

New Business

Preschool Director hired: Tammy Jones has been hired as Director and Lead Teacher for the preschool. Tammy is a longtime teacher at Grinnell Community Early Learning Center and is excited for a new role and new challenge. An associate lead teacher, Jaden Brown, has already been hired as well.

Program year:

- The August newsletter will include the program year overview. All children/youth classes will be continuing. Rabbi Rob has stepped away from Seekers, so that group will be more community-led, using an adult education curriculum if desired. Service projects will include Suds of Love and two Church World Service packing events.
- There are a number of youth about to age out of a Sunday school-type curriculum, and there may be some interest in developing a youth group program, nothing too demanding but perhaps once a month dinner. There may also be some interest in joining with groups in the United Methodist, Episcopal, and Presbyterian churches. There has been conversation about this in the past. Pastor Jessica will see if the ministerial association is interested in discussing this when they meet again.
- OWL programming for the year may need to be adjusted to catch a group of students who have just missed the age windows because of the pandemic.

Pastor Jessica offered a closing prayer.

Next scheduled meeting – Sunday, August 27, 2023 at 11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Rodrigues, Moderator-elect