

**United Church of Christ Congregational
Executive Board Meeting
August 4, 2024**

Benjamin Crosby, serving as temporary Convener, called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM. Katie Bauer, Gail Carlson, Ben Crosby, Geoff O'Meara and Christi Thielman were present along with Alice Ling, our "Interim" Pastor.

Alice opened the meeting with prayer.

Ben declared that there was a quorum. Christi made and Katie seconded a motion to approve the proposed agenda as presented. It passed unanimously.

Christi made and Gail seconded a motion to approve the minutes for the July 7, 2024 Executive Board meeting as presented. It passed unanimously.

Alice offered a brief Pastor's report.

Ben introduced the June-July financial report and observed that expenses are outpacing income.

Geoff made and Katie seconded a motion to close the church's Mountain West savings account and move the funds to a high-yield savings account. It passed unanimously.

Ben reported that he has made progress in retrieving the Corinthians funds currently held by Wells Fargo Bank. He reported that an internal Corinthians Fund will be established when he receives the funds.

There was lengthy discussion about the question about our church's Open & Affirming clause in the Constitution. This was the first conversation addressing the issue since March 17. Geoff made and Christi seconded a motion to rescind an action taken on March 3 stating that the Executive Board would bring the question of the church's Open & Affirming position to the congregation for re-consideration. The motion passed unanimously. There was consensus that the Board should make an effort to bring the issue to the attention of the congregation.

Geoff raised questions about what the process would be if the church decided to close its doors. Ben led the Board through a review of our Constitution, Idaho statutory requirements and IRS regulations.

Geoff also asked whether community persons who are not members of the church can serve on the Executive Board. A review of the Constitution/Bylaws made it clear that the answer is "no". There was discussion about how we might co-opt community members into our life.

There was conversation about the concept of offering worship less than every week. Consensus was that we are not ready to do that.

Ben reported that our digital front door lock has been working well and that he has not yet had time to install the remote access features of the lock.

Katie agreed to cover the music for the August 18 worship service with Ben posting the music to the church Drive in advance.

After considerable discussion, there was consensus that we should move the church telephone number to a Google Voice account. Ben agreed to make the move.

The Board agreed that it would be good to initiate a couple of general conversations about worship music during coffee hour.

Ben reported that the church chimes are now functioning again. Both Geoff and Gail offered the perspective that they sound good.

Geoff presented a contract for lawn/snow services. Christi made and Gail seconded a motion to hire Neal Boggess for \$60/month for weekly lawn mowing (months calling for mowing) and \$125/month for snow removal, Cedar Street & 4th Street sidewalks+ 3 entrances (months calling for snow removal). The motion passed unanimously.

Ben addressed the question of streaming worship. After considerable discussion, the Board agreed that staffing such an effort is currently unrealistic.

Katie agreed to forward a draft church brochure she has been working on to the Board for review.

The Board received Geoff's resignation with sadness and thanked him for his many contributions to the Board's life.

The Board set September 15 after worship for the next Executive Board meeting.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Ben Crosby

Approved 09-15-2024