

**United Church of Christ Congregational  
Executive Board Meeting  
September 15, 2024**

Benjamin Crosby, serving as temporary Convener, called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM. Gail Carlson, Ben Crosby, and Christi Thielman were present along with Alice Ling, our “Interim” Pastor.

The meeting opened with a conversation with Rick Ehram about the possibilities of his joining the Executive Board.

Ben made and Gail seconded a motion to appoint Rick Ehram to the Board. The motion passed unanimously. (For the sake of clarity, Katie Bauer & Ben Crosby are Class of 2025, Christi Thielman is Class of 2026, Gail Carlson & Rick Ehram are Class of 2027. Terms end with the Annual Meeting of their class year. There is one lay vacancy, Class of 2026 and a pastoral vacancy on the Board.)

Alice opened the meeting with prayer.

There being no objections, Ben declared that the agenda was approved as presented.

The minutes for the August 4, 2024 Executive Board meeting were approved without additions or corrections.

Alice offered a Pastor’s report. There was discussion about worship and the possibility of inviting several folks to join the church. The Board encouraged her to extend invitations to several new folks.

Ben introduced the August financial report and observed that we are currently holding our own. He explained that most of the Corinthians Circle funds have been recovered and placed in a new fund designated the “Corinthians Fund” and deposited in a high-yield savings account. He also reported that the church’s Mountain West savings account was closed and the funds were moved to a high-yield savings account.

Old Business

Ben reported that at the Executive Board’s request, he has been working to move the church phone number into a cloud service. He indicated that should be accomplished in the next few days.

Ben indicated that nothing more has been done to get the digital lock on the front door online. In the meantime, it is serving us well.

Ben expressed concern that we do not have adequate backup for music in worship. While we are grateful for Katie’s willingness to cover in Ben’s absence, there needs to be additional backup.

Rick offered to oversee Neal Boggess’ work when Rick is in town.

There was a thorough review of the draft brochure that Katie presented to the Board. Several constructive suggestions were offered. Ben agreed to work with Katie to develop a new draft.

Ben offered some comments about the need to develop a plan for the maintenance of church records. Many of the digital files currently reside on Ben’s laptop (with full backups). Some are also stored on the church’s Google Drive. Rick offered to explore some possible alternatives.

## New Business

Alice offered an update of a recent conversation she and Ben had with Rev. Phil Hodson, Designated Conference Minister of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the UCC. We talked about our desire to find permanent pastoral leadership and the need for us to work diligently to develop strong laity.

We established Sunday, October 13, 2024 as the date for our annual Church World Service Blanket Sunday.

We established Sunday, November 17, 2024 as the date for our Annual Budget Meeting.

We established Sunday, January 26, 2025 as the date for our Annual Meeting.

There was discussion about One Great Hour of Sharing and various Christmas offerings but no action was taken.

There was lengthy discussion about drafting a pastoral letter to the congregation updating our work and encouraging their full participation as well as sharing the dates for our Annual Budget Meeting and our Annual Meeting. Ben offered to develop a draft to be reviewed by the Board.

The Board clarified that Ben will serve as liaison for the wedding scheduled for October 5, 2024 and the concert scheduled for November 24, 2024. They further clarified that liaisons should oversee all aspects of the events for which they are responsible.

There was general consensus that the cloak room off the narthex should be reclaimed for its original purpose.

There was agreement that there should be a review of the contract with the Wallace Christmas Fund. Ben agreed to find a copy of the contract and invite them to our next meeting.

The Board set October 13, 2024 after worship for the next meeting.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ben Crosby

Approved 10-13-2024