

Governing Board Meeting Minutes

Location:	Room 102 - North Campus
Date:	January 24, 2024
Time:	7:00 PM - 9:00 pm
Attendees:	Daniel Davis, Deb Humphrey, Alice Finley, April Howe, Molly Hagkull, Lois Zook, Doug Torrance, Andrew Wildman, Catherine Adams, Jennifer Short, Ginny Barney, Rose Konrath
Ex-officio attendees:	Seth Stearns, Glen Miles, Kristyn Anderson
Guests:	Incoming Board members - Jim Hutchins, Charlie Boltwood Lynne Ayres
Absent:	Tricia Baxley, Rebecca Wolfe

Agenda items

1. Call to Order - Molly Hagkull
2. Devotion - Molly Hagkull
 - a. God doesn't call the qualified. God equips the called.
3. Consent Agenda
 - a. November minutes
 - b. Chair update
 - c. Operations report
 - d. Deb Humphrey made a motion to accept the consent agenda.
 - e. Rose Konrath seconded the motion.
 - f. An affirmative vote was unanimous.
4. Update on Nominating Committee - Alice Finley
 - a. Alice Finley reviewed the Nominating Committee slate and indicated that the process whereby individuals were nominated in a manner that would be representative of the congregation was successful.

5. Foundation Update - Doug Torrence

- a. As Doug will be rolling off of the Governing Board, he wanted share some parting thoughts related to the role of Governing Board liaison to the Foundation.
 - i. Designated funds should be fully utilized such as the Rose fund, Bible fund, and mission-related funds.
 - ii. The importance of following the grant submission process.
 - iii. The role of the Governing Board Liaison should be maintained going forward.

6. Financial Report and Update - Seth Stearns

- a. 2023 Pledges Made
 - i. \$1,872,361.68 has been pledged against a target of \$1,956,000.
- b. 2023 Pledges Paid
 - i. \$1,833,732.74 has been paid of the \$1,872,361.68 pledged.
- c. 2024 Pledges Made
 - i. \$1,663,643.48 has been pledged against a target of \$1,950,000.00.
- d. New Horizons Capital Campaign
 - i. \$2,971,575.58 has been pledged against a target of \$4,500,000.00.
- e. 2023 Financials
 - i. 2023 finished at \$75,038 in the black (with the ERC monies included)
 - ii. We finished \$60K better than the last forecast in 2023 primarily due to a surge in giving at the end of the year.
 - iii. Without the ERC monies we missed the budget by \$145K which is a 3% miss on the budget.
- f. 2024 Budget
 - i. Seth reviewed the key assumptions that served as the basis for the 2024 budget.
 - ii. The 2024 budget is \$5,427,140 compared to last year's budget of \$5,192,916.
 - iii. Catherine Adams made a motion that the 2024 budget be accepted.
 - iv. Doug Torrance seconded the motion.
 - v. An affirmative vote was unanimous.

g. Covenant Agreement - Seth Stearns

- i. Seth Stearns presented a draft of a Covenant Agreement that is required by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for his commissioning process. The Board is required to vote on the agreement.
- ii. Ginney Barney moved that the Governing Board commit to and support the commissioning process as reflected in the Covenant Agreement.
- iii. Deb Humphrey seconded the motion.
- iv. An affirmative vote was unanimous.

h. Sr. Minister's Report - Rev. Dr. Glen Miles

- i. Glen Miles referenced Dacher Keltner's book, *Awe: The New Science of Everyday Wonder and How It Can Transform Your Life*.
- ii. Worship attendance was up 24% over 2022.
- iii. Christmas Eve attendance was back to pre-COVID levels at over 2,700.
- iv. A renewed energy is present across the church.
- v. Dr. Andy Blosser has made it possible to have, on average, over 70 musicians across all three services leading us in worship.
- vi. The Refugee Ministry Team welcomed 24 refugees to the Columbus area last year.
- vii. Reiterated that Seth Stearns will be transitioning to the role of Minister of the Spiritual Life & Learning Center and Liz Compton will assume the role of Executive Director of Operations.
- viii. The Horizons Stewardship Report offered some very valuable information as a result of their Giving Audit.

i. Community First/Small Group Conversation

- i. Small groups discussed and offered their thoughts on the following questions:
 - 1. Have we met our group Board goals? If not, what would still need to happen to meet them?
 - 2. What feedback or questions do you have on the draft of the revised bylaws?

j. Celebrations: Outgoing Board Members - Molly Hagkull

k. Adjournment/Closing Prayer - Rev. Dr. Glen Miles

Key Takeaways

1. The revised approach to selecting Nominating Committee nominees was successful in building a slate that is representative of the ministries and demographics across the church.
2. The church finished the year \$75,038 in the black (with the ERC monies factored in).
3. The Board approved the 2024 budget.
4. While we have made good strides in addressing the bank loan principal, we still need to continue pay as much on the loan as possible.
5. There was a lot of valuable information generated by the Horizons Consulting Group Giving Audit. More information about the data will be shared in the coming months.

Respectfully submitted by Seth Stearns