

Tapestry Church Board Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2024
6:30 p.m. – Via Zoom

In Attendance: Bill Bass, Curt Clingerman, Katrina Clingerman, Ken Granger for Janet Granger, David Heidenreich, Darren Nguyen, Sarah Nguyen, Scott Opsahl, Paula Peterson, Dave Rohl, Betty Sisco

Staff Present: Cory Glover, John Kixmiller

Bill Bass offered a prayer, sitting in for Cort Davisson this evening, who is tending to his mother who has taken a fall and is at the hospital.

Approval of Minutes: The August 19, 2024, meeting minutes were presented for approval. There being no corrections, on motion made by Dave Rohl and seconded by Sarah Nguyen, the minutes were approved.

Old Business:

a. Joint Ownership Team Update

Cory recapped that with the approval of the Board to move forward with the Joint Resolution, it has now arrived at the congregational level. After holding several listening/informational sessions, as well as publishing info in the e-news, there will be a vote by the congregation on September 29, 2024. Pushback has been minimal, and the work has been well-received. Pending approval, the committee will continue to work to hone the Covenant, the “how we live into relationship together,” portion of the agreement. The legal aspect has been addressed first. There may be some documents that will need to be voted on by the Board prior to January 1st. These will guide not only the legal entity and financial transactions to coincide with the legal requirements of the state of Indiana, but also how we envision our life together moving forward. Dave Rohl asked what surprises may have come out of the discussions that we might address in our conversations with other members. Cory replied that there were concerns that Tapestry not become Lutheran and that we retain our congregational autonomy in terms of how we make decisions. Bill’s experience in small group discussion found that Risen Lord’s concerns are similar ones. One concern was about demographics; specifically, if we were two “older” churches becoming one “older” church, but we are reassured that Woven Worship is attracting a younger audience. There were questions about insurance, which have been addressed. Dave Heidenreich asked for clarification. Cory replied that we currently have two separate policies, with RL’s policy covering the building and Tapestry’s insuring our contents. The anticipation is that The Common Place will have a single policy that will cover everything, beginning in January. We will be actively pursuing the best bid from both current providers to identify the best fit.

Bill summarized that the team is working on two documents: 1) the legal documents outlining how we will function as an entity, and 2) Covenants which will address how we will operate in relationship with one another in faith-based ways. In response to a question by Betty Sisco, the covenants will need to be placed before a vote by the Board but will not need to be voted on by the congregation.

b. Bylaw Subcommittee Update

Proposed language and bylaw revisions are in the Board Packet. Paula Peterson had a concern that there was no mention of Elder meetings or officers. To incorporate some degree of accountability, she recommended that meetings be designated as regular, not necessarily monthly; that there be a Chair and a Vice Chair and possibly a Secretary; and that minutes be transferred to Google Drive, as Oversight does. As Cory thought through these concerns, he pointed out that the Elders are very different than Oversight in that they do not have programmatic authority but are meant to be spiritual guides. He also cautioned that the current lack of specificity allows the Elders to have some freedom, whereas putting requirements in the bylaws presents requirements that must be met. He suggested that Paula take these concerns to the Elders and perhaps rewrite that section with their input and then bring that proposal back to the Subcommittee.

The question then proposed by Cory was: shall we approve these amendments individually or should we table them until we think we have all of them in the form that we feel is “right”? It was decided to proceed with any wording questions and concerns and then decide on direction from there.

- The S&F section had some typos that will be corrected. Differences include the naming of a “Financial Administrator” instead of an “Assistant Financial Secretary” which Cory pointed out has become a staff member, not a volunteer, which eliminates the need for a Surety Bond. We do not want individual congregational members to be responsible for the financial regulation of the entity.
- Regarding non-elected positions, language has been changed to maintain consistency.
- Elders/Deacons section includes changes in the descriptions and qualifications of Deacons and the Deaconate. This portion will be tabled until the Elders are able to meet.
- The language changes relating to non-elected positions also made the verbiage consistent with other language within the bylaws.
- Betty Sisco had a question about the Deacon Emeritus status regarding whether it should be stated that the person being considered must be deceased or someone may receive this honor while still living but no longer able to serve. She wondered if this clarification might be needed. Cory pointed out that the language says, “held for life”, so that seems clear in his mind. Dave Rohl agreed that the language is constrictive and is not clear, and that it has been the topic of discussion in previous contexts. Cory stated that this designation is not made for other areas of service and when asked opined that this designation is a holdover

from a different time and suggested that perhaps this is a time for a reevaluation. Paula said the Elders also had the discussion about objectivity and subjectivity in awarding this distinction and how the qualifications are unclear. It was decided that the Elders should decide about the continued need for this and, if it is needed, how then to clarify how one would qualify. Cory asked, although he does not have a vote in this matter, that we keep in mind that we are endeavoring to state who we are at this moment through these changes and not who we were 40 years ago. Bill tasked Paula and the Elders with taking these sections and deciding if this honor continues and if so, what the criteria will be. Discussion continued expressing problems with singling out certain individuals to honor for their service while excluding many others.

- Oversight changes have to do with giving fuller descriptions of key roles.

Bill called for a vote for each of these set of changes. All were favorably passed. Elders will return to the Board later with their recommendations for approval.

New Business

- a. Treasurer's Report: Darren Nguyen noted that the report is included in the Board Packet. Regarding questions from the last meeting regarding deposits and withdrawals from restrictive funds for youth, specifically Misson Fund and CYF Chi Rho Fund, Darren reported that Rhonda is currently checking on that information and he will be following up with her.

Bill called for a vote to accept the report. It was moved by Betty Sisco and seconded by Paula Peterson to accept the Treasurer's Report and was passed.

- b. Stewardship & Finance: Darren shared information in Cort's absence that S&F's major discussion centered around where to pull funds to finance our portion of the 50-50 requirement of the agreement with Risen Lord. They looked at two funds and decided it was best to take those funds from market-based CCF. Bill emphasized that the check needs to be written by October 1st, but that there are timing issues to be met. All funds will be pulled out with proper forms signed and timing requirements met. The remainder of the funds not needed for the agreement will be reinvested with DCEF and perhaps a higher interest account. S&F will look for ways to make up the loss of interest income from those funds. Risen Lord will pay off the mortgage according to the agreement and will have a positive cash flow for the first time in twenty years. Curt Clingerman wondered what might be worked out with RL to make up some of that loss.

Ministry Reports:

Elders – Report is included in the packet.

Oversight – Report is included in the packet. Dave Rohl encouraged all to plug into the many opportunities ahead.

Check-in with Staff Members

Cory drew our attention to the very busy season that we are entering. A Weave (new member) Session will take place on Sunday with a combined service and luncheon. Next week will be the Congregational Meeting and then we will be entering stewardship season with the booklet available in October. We will segue into filling the 2025 Budget and Leadership Roster. Following will be Trunk or Treat, Thanksgiving combined services and then the beginning of Advent-- all coming at us very quickly. Our great team is planning ahead!

John added that a pastor, Bill Thomas, who had served at Beech Grove and Southport Christian and then at Allisonville Christian passed away on September 12th. Services and visitation will be on Sunday. Worth noting, a total of 40 personal invitations are being sent for the Weave session.

Bill added that on Resolution Vote Sunday (9/29) RL will have a Rocket Launch and Celebration. Our participation is encouraged.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 PM.

Next meeting: October 21, 2025

Paula Peterson offered to close with a devotion.

Volunteer for devotions for the October meeting – Betty Sisco

jkg 10/18/2024