

**ROLLING HILLS COVENANT CHURCH**  
**Elder Council – Meeting Minutes**  
**August 19, 2019 (Approved 09/16/19)**

**MEETING ATTENDANCE**

Name	Position	Present	Absent
Mike Cochrane	Chairman	X	
Anthony Galante	Vice Chairman		X
Shawn Hurley	Executive Preaching Pastor	X	
Clyde LaGue	Elder – Children’s Commission	X	
Jerry Rilling	Elder – Congregational Care	X	
Gene Chou	Elder – Connect & Equip Commission	X	
Tom Miller	Elder – Finance & Property Commission	X	
Craig Knickerbocker	Elder – Global Outreach Commission	X	
Mike DiLustro	Elder – Life Group Commission	X	
Hoon Dokko	Elder – Local Outreach Commission	X	
Terry Wheeler	Elder – Personnel Commission	X	
Richard Smith	Elder – Stewardship Commission	X	
Rod Lenders	Elder – Student Commission	X	
Ben Eroen	Elder – Worship Arts Commission	X	
Steve Bunyard	Associate Pastor – Outreach	X	
Lloyd Gilbert	Associate Pastor – Student Ministries		X
Garrick Hanger	Associate Pastor – Adult Ministries		X
Bob Cubillos	Business Administrator	X	
Jane Wallin	Secretary	X	

At 7:05 PM, Chairman Cochrane welcomed everyone and opened the meeting in prayer. Guests attending at the first part of the meeting were Labib Madanat and Safy Jacobs. In addition, Rod “attended” the meeting via video link.

**DEVOTIONAL – PSALM 119:89-96**

Tom began his devotion on this passage by first having it read aloud. Safy Jacobs volunteered and blessed the EC by doing so. The following are Tom’s devotional thoughts verse by verse:

- v. 89 – God’s royal Word is whereby all was created; it is immovable, enduring, forever – with no variableness.
  - v. 90 – His promises and Word cannot change with time; all will be done according to His will and His time.
  - v. 91 – To this day, all continues to God alone.
  - v. 93 – This verse states a resolution to perpetuity – to resolve to never forget God’s word; by His Word, our spiritual life began, is maintained, is comforted, etc.
  - v. 94 – As we sincerely give ourselves to God, He will care for and save us.
  - v. 95 – The psalmist comforts himself by meditating on God’s Word.
  - v. 96 – The psalmist sees his own limitations, but God’s Word is sufficient in all cases and at all times.
- Tom shared a final thought from Chuck Smith: we have nothing more permanent than the Word of God. God said it – and nothing can change it or Him. In Matthew it says, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”

**ELDER PRAYERS**

The elders prayed for needs of those on the council, for needs of those in the congregation, and for the church in general.

**MINUTES**

Meeting minutes from the 07/22/2019 meeting were approved by acclamation.

**LABIB MADANAT – NEW MINISTRY IDEA PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION**

Labib came to share a new vision/dream he has of expanding his ministry with the Bible Society. When he began serving in Jerusalem back in 1993, RHCC embraced him and supported him right from the beginning. Only three other churches have become partners with him. He is a Jordanian that has been ministering first off to Jews, which expanded to Jordanians, Muslims, Palestinians, and more Labib sees beyond just “selling Bibles” to *making disciples* with Jordan as the “hub.” Mission is key to keep Christians in the Middle East active and engaged. A ministry for “trauma healing” is needed, as people are coming to Jesus, the Healer. Also, a new initiative is to do

Bible translation to Iraqi, Arabic, Jordanian Arabic, Palestinian Arabic, and updated Hebrew so people have a colloquial translation and can hear/read the Word in their own *spoken* language. (He will be going to Sarajevo soon to train Bosnian believers to minister to Muslims.) The three things he is dreaming about is 1) a trauma healing center, 2) a family ministry center, and 3) a Bible academy. These require financial partnership, which he is asking RHCC to consider. The whole project will take \$3 million, of which he has \$2 million. Labib emphasized that this is much more than a “building project.” He is so thankful for all RHCC has invested in him and his ministry over the years; now he asks for investment in a place to “house” these ministries. When asked why he plans to buy rather than rent property, he stated that 95% of property is in the hands of Muslims – and once they find out that a Christian wants to rent it, they say “no.” In Jordan, a purchase is safe and final – and the Jordan Bible Society is already registered and recognized. The Bible Societies of Norway, Britain, and Germany have partnered with him financially already, which is the source of the \$2 million. Wycliffe will help with the translation of the colloquial Bibles, but not with any funding of the buildings. Finally, Labib stated that he want to extend these centers to Muslims, which he knows is dangerous. Safy reminded the EC that RHCC has helped with buildings for other missionary partners, citing three instances that she could recall. At the end of Labib’s presentation, Pastor Steve prayed for him and for God’s guidance as the EC considers this possible financial partnership.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At approximately 8:30 pm, the staff and secretary were excused for EC to continue the meeting in executive session.

### **STAFF ROUNDTABLE – See Appendix A**

### **ELDER ROUNDTABLE – See Appendix B**

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

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#### **Next ECM Dates:**

**August 26**, September 16 (regular), September 23 (special), October 7 and 21, November 4 and 18, December 2 and 16, 2019, and January 6 and 20, 2020.

(EC meetings are typically either on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the month and sometimes both.)

#### **Next CBM Dates:**

**September 22**, and November 10, 2019; and March 1, May 3, September 20, and November 8, 2020, at 6:30 pm.

s/Jane Wallin  
Church Secretary

## **APPENDIX A – STAFF UPDATES**

### **Shawn**

Hello Everyone,  
July 25, 2019

Here is a recap of what has happened on the main campus this week:

**We completed our week of VBS:** I really cannot say enough about what an incredible week this is every year. There are hundreds of kids, an incredible team of volunteers, a team of student ministries teenagers planning games, and worship led by Michael Barker. It is an incredible joy to see the parents and kids hearing about Jesus through the entire week, and the thrill that my own kids have to come to church and to serve. Richelle and her team did a FANTASTIC job in their planning. Our VBS kids will be in service this weekend, singing a song they learned this week at VBS.

**The Back to School Drive is this weekend:** Marcia and Melvin will be at Harbor Park this Saturday from 11:00-3:00, handing out back packs and school supplies to under privileged families. Melvin will also be preaching and giving a gospel invitation.

**The Staff had their BCW debrief with Giselle today:** We brought in lunch, and Phil Hodges Senior, Susan Johnson, and Christina Dake led the staff through the data. Phil did a great job casting a vision for how BCW can help us from both in relationship to one another and improve the quality of our work for the Lord.

**High School Ministries leaves for the Delta this Sunday:** Although the sign ups were a little slow in the beginning, they have closed out registration with a full camp, and they are completely staffed as well. Please pray for safety, spiritual growth, and for kids to come to Jesus.

**We are giving Kim McLennan increased responsibility:** For the past nine years, Kim has brought leadership to our Worship Service. Moving forward, Kim will work with Sam Tabari to bring coordination to the entire campus on Sunday morning in an effort to increase the warmth and connection to our congregants and new attenders. Kim will also step onto the Connect Commission in this role.

**Memorials for congregants:** The following congregants have gone home to be with the Lord in the last few weeks: Gina Tripp, Jane Matsuda, Joyce Grubbs, Marc Sonne, Vern Peterson, and Colleen Fersch.

**Update on Jim Walter:** I heard through a congregant that Jim has had little contact from us as elders since his resignation. If you can take a moment to shoot him an email, I believe it would be a huge encouragement to him.

**This weekend,** I will be preaching Contemporary, and Garrick will be preaching Saturday night and Sunday Blended.

Thanks everyone,  
Shawn

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Hello Everyone,  
August 1, 2019

Here is an update of what happened on the main campus this week.

**High School Ministry will return from Delta this Friday:** The reports have been very positive so far, and they have enjoyed a safe and fruitful camp. Please pray that we can successfully transition these students into Impact groups next month. Also, please pray for enough leaders to run the Impact ministry.

**Marcia and Melvin had the best Back to School Drive "ever":** The event was hosted off campus at Harbor Park, and Melvin preached the Gospel. Over 500 backpacks were given out, and it was an encouraging event for all of outreach.

**Phil Hodges has taken on leadership of Best Christian Workplace:** He has been on campus almost every day this week, meeting with staff, and beginning to access for himself where we are.

**The dates, team, and art are selected for Art of Worship on November 23-24:** As with last year, this will be treated as Invite Weekend, and will have an evangelistic focus.

**The search team for the Women's Director position is now grading resumes:** Pray that they have a supernatural sense of whom God is calling to this position.

**Our new Video and Media Coordinator, James Stewart, began work today in Communications.**

Previously employed at Journey of Faith, James is stepping into the vacant position left by RJ Hall.

**I am preaching on Saturday Night and Sunday Choir services, and Nori Terashima will be in Contemporary.**

Thank you everyone,  
Shawn  
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Hello Everyone,  
August 7, 2019

I am sending you the end of week update one day early, as I leave for vacation tomorrow. As a result, there will not be an update email next week, but please check in with your own staff to find out what is happening within your departments.

**Our Trust Chapel occurred on Tuesday, August 6:** The focus of our time was one Women in Ministry at RHCC, RHCC By-Laws, next steps with BCWI, and a few HR related issues. At the request of the elders, we pulled the more controversial items of personnel departures and spiritual formation. It is my belief that these are still topics that need to be addressed in a future Trust Chapel, but we look forward to partnering with the Elder's so we remain in step together.

**Japanese VBS is currently underway:** As I write, I can hear worship songs being sung in Japanese immediately below my office. Nori has 50 children signed up this year, and most of them come from non-Christian homes. Please pray that people will hear and respond to the Gospel!

**Staff Chapels begin again next week:** We took the month of July off from staff chapels to reset the vision and to accommodate so many vacation schedules. Between now and January, Tuesday Staff Chapels will be led by a rotating department each week. Chapels during the month of August will be led by Students, then WAC, then Students, then Adults. Our focus on this season is relationships and joy. SLT will revisit the vision for Staff Chapels in November to plan for 2020.

**Pastors on Sabbatical are returning:** Vance is now back in the office, and Lloyd will be back in two weeks.

**Congregants who have died, or are ill:** Please pray for the family of Shirley Cooper who passed this week. Also, Katherine Holdeman (Ted's wife) spent significant time in the hospital due to a fever that she could not shake. Tom Bostelaar also suffered a stroke this week. Susan is engaged with both families right now.

**Jon McNeff will join us on August 17-18th, and is our first Guest Speaker:** Please watch your email for an e-vite from Donna to RSVP for our staff and elder dinner with Jon on August 17 after the Saturday Night service.

If you have a staff need in my absence, please check in with Garrick who will be covering for me in my absence.

**Preaching in contemporary this week is Garrick, and Sam will be up for our Saturday night and Sunday morning choir services.**

Blessings,  
Shawn

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**Steve**

**Lloyd**

**Garrick**

## **APPENDIX B – ELDER UPDATES**

**CHAIRMAN (Mike Cochrane)**

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES (Clyde LaGue)**

**CONGREGATIONAL CARE (Jerry Rilling)**

**CONNECT & EQUIP (Gene Chou)**

**FINANCE & PROPERTY (Tom Miller)**

**GLOBAL OUTREACH (Craig Knickerbocker)**

**LIFE GROUP (Mike DiLustro)**

**LOCAL OUTREACH (Hoon Dokko)**

**PERSONNEL (Terry Wheeler)**

**STEWARDSHIP (Richard Smith)**

**STUDENT MINISTRIES (Rod Lenders)**

**WORSHIP ARTS (Ben Eroen)**