

ROLLING HILLS COVENANT CHURCH
Elder Council – Meeting Minutes
October 7, 2019 (Approved 11/04/19)

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 - via phone	
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 Mike opened the meeting with prayer.

DEVOTIONAL – PSALM 119:113-120

Hoon presented the devotional on these verses in Psalm 119. He first noted that the Psalmist contrasts *hate* and *love*, which are the main themes of the verses – and then he read the whole passage aloud. In v.113, he pointed out the contrast – the double-minded vs. the one who loves God’s law. Who are the double-minded? They are those who doubt God, as defined in James 1:6-8. They are the ones who need to purify their hearts, as seen in James 4:8. Their hearts are not fully God’s. They lack a passion for the Word and they are easily swayed by the ways of the world. God rejects the double-minded because –

- 1) They stray from His word
- 2) They are deceitful
- 3) They are full of falsehood
- 4) They hinder others from keeping God’s commandments
- 5) They distract others from the hope and the security of God’s Word

Why should we love God’s law?

- It is the Word of God
- It gives hope
- It keeps our life grounded
- It gives encouragement
- It provides refuge and strength

Finally, where do you stand?

Are you among the double-minded who are unstable in all their ways?

OR

Are you taking a stand on the Word of God?

ELDER PRAYERS

Using John 17:20-23, the elders then prayed for themselves and for one another.

MINUTES

Meeting minutes from the 09/16/2019 and 09/23/2019 meetings were approved by acclamation.

ALPINE REPORT FROM RICHELLE BERGLEY, CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR

Clyde reported on Alpine as conveyed to him by Richelle. At the last camp, they experienced a "food shortage," and that the campers were actually rationed at times. This appears to be a significant oversight by Alpine staff. Lloyd and Rod reconfirmed that they will see how the winter camps go and will note things of significance such as this to bring back to the EC for discussion in the spring.

ECC'S PACIFIC SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE SUPERINTENDENT, PAUL WILSON SHARES PER BELOW

Introduction/Get-to-know – Chairman Mike introduced Paul Wilson, the Superintendent of the Pacific Southwest Conference of ECC, which is comprised of 155 churches, including HI and AK. He learned about RHCC and its commitment to missions way back in his 20's in Olympia, WA. Howard Johnson, the pastor of Grace Community Covenant of Olympia, encouraged Paul to go into the ministry. Paul loves being a pastor first and foremost. At age 30, he was field director of the Alaska Covenant churches, becoming the youngest in the Covenant to lead a region. During his decade of service in AK, he met Byron – and he developed the launch of Alaska Christian College. He then moved to be a local pastor in Oakland and care for his three adopted sons, one of whom had a severe emotional illness. His Oakland church planted 67 churches in Cambodia. Paul sees his role from the Lord is to give testimony of God's greatness and live under the authority of His Word – and his gifting from the Lord is to serve and equip leaders.

Paul shares why ECC is accepting of Complementarian churches – The EC expressed concern that the ECC is expecting all Covenant churches to change their governing documents to state an egalitarian stance. First, Paul reminded them that the Covenant has ordained women since 1976 – and, also, that the ECC likes 'to make the main thing the main thing' and 'to agree to disagree.' (Paul stated that he is egalitarian, for which a strong Scriptural argument can be made; he also was in a home group with J.I. Packer, some years ago, who is complementarian, for which an equally strong Scriptural argument can be made; so he appreciates both stances.) Paul conveyed to the EC that the ECC recognizes that RHCC has always been complementarian and is *welcomed* and actually *needed* as such, that RHCC has conducted itself with humility in this tension with the ECC, and that RHCC is highly respected by the ECC for its position on the issue. While the ECC is leading new churches to structure their governing documents to have the egalitarian stance, and viewing churches that are not changing/updating their docs to that position as ignorant or defiant, Paul firmly stated that RHCC is *not viewed* in that way and they *will not seek to remove* RHCC from the ECC. In return, the EC asked Paul to convey to the ECC that that message has not come across clearly and has therefore influenced the RHCC Elder Council and the congregation as well. Paul reaffirmed that RHCC is "grandfathered in" because of its historical position and because the ECC respects us in that position. Paul would come alongside RHCC with support if and when necessary. The EC asked if our next church plant has to be egalitarian. The answer is 'yes' according to the ECC statement. The EC asked about a man who is complementarian and who seeks ordination from the ECC. Paul responded, 'That's a tough one,' and clearly stated that the ECC would decline ordination to anyone with a complementarian position. Paul complimented the EC for bringing great questions to the table. He affirmed that RHCC is appropriately challenging this ECC stance because it goes against the 'agree to disagree on the minors' – and changes a 'minor' to a 'major.'

Paul shares ECC position on marriage and sex – Paul began by stating that there is no way anyone can live under the authority of Scripture and condone homosexual marriage. The EC asked how churches in general became egalitarian and came to accept gay marriage. Paul related that the seeds go as far back as the late 18th century into the 19th century. They lowered their view of Scripture, which led to a weakening of the authority of God. "Without revelation people throw off restraint." Right now in our denomination, the leadership is the most conservative it has been in 50 years and they have a higher view of Scripture. Stating that he has heard the declaration that "I'm a gay Christian," one elder asked Paul his thoughts on that. He said that the Scriptures that say we are a 'new creation in Christ' and 'the old has passed away' suggest that that kind of statement is troubling and damaging.

This subject of marriage and sex is very different from the complementarian/egalitarian subject. That is because society does not care about complementarian vs. egalitarian, or baptism, or etc.; but society does care about this. Paul sees that people not marrying is the biggest cultural change that causes poverty and violence. He noted that in 1960 fewer than 4% of children born were born out of wedlock. Today it is 47%. We are not teaching marriage anymore – man and woman get married and then they raise children.

Paul shares his insights on SP search process – The ECC president recognizes Paul as the best interviewer and he has a very good 'track record' for finding excellent people. He offered to spend 2 hours with the SP search team to make his presentation. He can help with 'pastoral' things, not HR or legal things. Paul prayed over the EC upon conclusion.

PRESENT VISION TEAM FINDINGS FOR APPROVAL OF ELDERS

Chairman Mike pointed out things to look at and review on the VT handouts. No action was taken.

PRESENT REVISED ADDITION TO COMPLEMENTARIAN TEACHING STATEMENT AND POSITIVE PREAMBLE

After making some final adjustments/edits, the EC agreed by acclamation on the following 3-paragraph addition to the Teaching Statement:

“We teach that God created people in His image with unique dignity, worth and purpose. People are created as male and female—equal in worth, yet each with unique strengths to complement each other in this life, Genesis 1:26-31, Genesis 2:18-23.

Men and women are together the recipients of spiritual gifts designed to empower them for ministry in the local church and beyond. Therefore, women are to be encouraged, equipped, and empowered to utilize their gifting in ministry, in service to the body of Christ, and through teaching in ways that are consistent with the Word of God. 1 Peter 2:9-10, Acts 2:17-18, Galatians 3:28.

We teach that all (male & female) live in submission to the Lordship of the Lord Jesus Christ and are servants of one another, John 13:20. We teach that in this life God has reserved for men the office of elder/overseer/pastor, the preaching of the Word of God in worship services, and spiritual headship in the home, 1 Corinthians 11:3, Ephesians 5:18-33, 1 Corinthians 14:31-40, 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 1 Timothy 2:12-13. We teach that humble, loving, servant spiritual authority rests upon these men in their sphere of responsibility. Elder/Overseers and Pastors are each to meet the Biblical qualifications of 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.”

The EC also agreed by acclamation that the preamble will more appropriately accompany the Short Paper that is still being written.

CLOSING PRAYER

Vice Chairman Anthony ended the meeting in prayer at 9:47pm.

STAFF ROUNDTABLE – See Appendix A

ELDER ROUNDTABLE – See Appendix B

Next ECM Dates:

October 21 [conclude Executive Session from 9/3/19], November 4 and 18, December 2 and 16, 2019; and January 6 and 20, 2020.

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

Next CBM Dates:

November 3, 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, here is what happened on the main campus the past two weeks (sorry, I was out of town last Thursday).

October 4, 2019

David Krall is back from Sabbatical with a new baby (a little boy named Xander) and Vance has left for the second half of his sabbatical. David has a lot of life change right now, so please pray for a smooth transition back into the office. Vance is also really struggling with dizziness from his heart medication, so pray that this time of rest furthers his healing.

Jr. High and High School have both kicked off their small group ministry: Jr. High had their Fury event last week, and the Jambadodown is coming up in a few weeks. All small groups are staffed and meeting. Please pray for these volunteer leaders, who give so much time to lead these groups.

Trust Meetings are currently being scheduled by Donna. You should be contacted by your staff representative soon to discuss your upcoming Trust Meeting with your department. These are meetings that we are not only inviting you to, but we are hoping you can attend. We are asking that department head and elders submit a list of questions from your staff ahead of time so that ILT and the respective elders can be prepared.

The Outreach Department is attending an Evangelism conference at Saddleback this week, and are out of the office.

Changes to our Contract Workers: Recent changes by the State of California have caused us to have to transition contract workers into employees of the church. This has been very complicated for WAC, as they have dozens of musicians who help with the orchestra and worship. Pray for them: it is a nuisance and frustrating, and the law does not fit us well.

We said good-bye to our Janitorial Staff, Gabriel and Veneranda Perez: These were dearly beloved servants, who truly became our friends. They submitted a sweet thank you note for their time with us, and there were tears on their last day. Bob and Bob are working on their replacements.

Ministers Active Status Form is ready for signature: Bob C. and I have been working for the past few months on making sure that all commissioned ministers are aware of the churches policies on marriage. It was presented to SLT this week, and we anticipate signatures within two weeks.

Donna is finalizing a location for a SLT and Elder Retreat on February 7-9. More information will be coming soon.

I will be preaching in Contemporary, and Garrick will be in Saturday Night and Blended this weekend.

Thank you,

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)