



**ROLLING HILLS COVENANT CHURCH**  
**Quarterly Congregational Business Meeting**  
**DRAFT Minutes**  
**Sunday – November 3, 2019**

**Present:** 118

Rachel Gonzalez opened the meeting with the music devotional and worship at 6:35 pm.

**SCRIPTURE & PRAYER**

Chairman Mike Cochrane called the meeting to order in prayer at 6:43 pm. He then prepared our hearts and minds for doing God's business with the following devotional:

**Tonight** I want to tell you about Cavitation. Cavitation is a boating term. Cavitation occurs when a propeller is spinning fast, but only producing small vapor-filled cavities or bubbles that grow and then collapse and produce mini-shock waves. When a strong motor boat is in cavitation, the motor can be full throttle, but the boat is still going nowhere because the propeller is creating bubbles and shockwaves instead of displacing water and converting the torque of the motor into thrust or force to drive the boat forward. We do not want to be a church that is in cavitation. **We do not want to be a church that is focused on the peripheral and expending all our energy and focus on things that will not move us forward.**

**Psalm 119:121-128**

Psalm 119 is an acrostic psalm meaning that each 8-verse stanza corresponds to a letter in the Hebrew alphabet with each verse in the 8-verse stanza beginning with that same Hebrew letter. [There are other acrostics in the Bible, such as, Lamentations 3, Psalm 111 and Psalm 112.]

This is the longest Psalm in the Bible [also the longest chapter]. It is made up of 22 stanzas of 8 verses each yielding 176 total verses. It appears that the author chose 8 verse stanzas to draw attention to the 8 different words he used to refer to God's law.

A general summary of Psalm 119 might be: (Ross, vol. 3, page 463)

"The psalmist strengthens himself by his detailed meditations on the Word of the LORD, which is his comfort, his prized possession, his rule of life, his resource for strength, and his message of hope, all of which inspire him to desire it even more, to live by it, and to pray for its fulfillment."

Let's dig into Stanza 16 of Psalm 119 tonight; all these verses start with the same Hebrew letter - Avin. (He read Psalm 119:121-128 aloud, after which he made the following comments.)

Section 1: verses 121-124

The Psalmist is praying to his Lord. He is asking the Lord in complete dependence to deal with him according to the Lord's steadfast, loyal, covenant love (*hesed*).

The Psalmist can pray for God to act on his behalf because he is living a Word-centered life.

Section 2: verses 125-126

The Psalmist asks God to work by explaining his loyalty as His servant.

Section 3: verses 127-128

The more the arrogant break God's laws the more the psalmist loves God's gracious guidance.

The Psalmist will center his life on God's word and reject the false ways of those who reject God's word.

In order for us to be part of God's plan and in His will, we must be loyal to Him by obeying His word and rejecting false ways.

Fruitfulness for the believer is found in living a Word-centered life of loyalty to God.

God acts through us as we keep in step with His Spirit and we obey His word as His loyal servant.

Just as God wants each believer to be Word-centered, God wants us to be a Word-centered church.

We must lead forward as a Bible-centered Church. No more participation in discord. We cannot allow ourselves to be sidetracked with discussions and conflict over non-essential doctrines. That is a false way that we must reject.

We must make the main thing the main thing. Jesus said it better in the Sermon on the Mount, “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” (Matthew 6:33). As a Bible-centered Church, we are to be about our Father’s business. So let’s see what that would look like...

Jesus does not instruct us to spend time on getting complete agreement on non-essential doctrines in order to find unity. We don’t waste out time on striving to make rules or guidelines to establish peace in our church. We find unity as we get about our Father’s business.

Let’s look at the classic story with Jesus teaching on this topic. In Matthew 22, when a Pharisee tried to trip Jesus up by asking what he thought was a trick question, “Which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus was not caught flat-footed, but was ready with an answer: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” So the Great Commandment is simply to love God and love your neighbor. So easy to say, but so challenging to do. Nevertheless, this is our calling as a Bible-centered church, to love God and to love our neighbors.

In the last paragraph of Matthew, Jesus adds to the Great Commandment, the Great Commission. “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you.” If we want to be a unified, Bible-centered church, then we will love God and love our neighbors. The best way we can show our love to anyone is to go and befriend them and tell them about Jesus. Show them we love them and tell them how Jesus came into our lives, saved us, made us whole and made us a part of His body and forever family. If we want to be a unified church, then all we must do is to focus on the people who aren’t here yet. We have to focus on our neighbors who don’t know Jesus yet. We must focus on the lost in our neighborhoods, in Los Angeles, in the US and in people groups all around the world.

We can no longer have our eyes, hearts and energies distracted from what Jesus said were our main tasks on earth. We must drop any focus on lesser things that divide. Our unity will only come as we focus on the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. That is what RHCC has been about for 60-plus years. Sometimes we simply need to remind ourselves about our main reason for being here. We need to get our boat out of cavitation and allow the Holy Spirit to use us and thrust us out into the world in unity as He empowers us forward.

Love, go, disciple, and teach the Gospel of Jesus to all generations, all peoples, and all nations.

Do not allow discord to pull your eyes, hearts and energies from doing God’s work.

Be unified as a church that is on task and effectively converting the power of God into forward progress of loving and seeking the lost. Unity is found as we move forward together in obedience to God’s Great Command and Commission.

## **MEETING RESPONSIBILITIES**

Chairman Cochrane appointed Emily Wandland as the meeting’s Parliamentarian. No tellers were assigned for this meeting.

## **MEETING AGENDA**

The meeting agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.

## **ADOPT MINUTES**

Minutes from Quarterly Congregational Business Meeting of September 22, 2019, were approved by acclamation.

## **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

Gene Chou, Elder for the Connect & Equip Commission, reported on the membership updates (new members added, members reinstated, and members removed). Total membership after tonight’s meeting is 1874. Details of the membership changes are as follows:

### **Members Added**

1. Castro, Noheny
2. Gilbert, Nylah
3. Gillingham, Carl
4. Kaopua, Colby
5. Kaopua, Katie
6. Kelly, Joyce

7. Parks, Beatriz
8. Parks, Patrick
9. Sardisco, Steven

Gene moved to accept the new folks into membership. Chairman Cochrane called for a show of hands and the new members were welcomed by acclamation.

#### **Members Reinstated**

1. Hurley, Kate

#### **Members Removed (Due to requests, transfers, or inactivity)**

1. Marinkovich, Ronald Anthony, Jr. (Ron)

#### **Members Removed (Through home going)**

1. Schroder, Virginia

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT – CURRENT FINANCIAL STATUS**

Garth Edwards, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report. As of October 31, 2019, the revenues are \$2,946,000 and the expenses are \$3,125,000, which results in a deficit of (\$179,000). It was asked why the budgeted expenses are higher than the actual expenses, to which Garth replied that expense budget is often front-loaded in the early months of the year as part of the annual budgeting process. The situation in regard to the deficit is not unusual; we have plenty of cash reserves to cover any deficit. There are always fluctuations in expenses and revenue; but the bottom line is, we are always OK, because we are expecting a significant amount of giving at the end of the year. Additionally, while attendance is down, it is down only 2.7% through October 31. For clarification, the attendance numbers do not include adult or children's Sunday school classes. When asked if we know the particular category of attendees from which the greatest decrease comes, the answer is 'no,' because we don't have that detail. When asked if anyone on staff is in charge of increasing attendance, the reply was that it is not currently on anyone's job description, but it is being considered. Garth explained that, when attendance goes down, giving goes down; but downsizing is not necessary at this time, because the finances are watched closely so that we will not get into trouble.

#### **DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY UPDATE**

David Krall, Life Group/Young Adults Pastor, reminded everyone of the great numbers of spring participants and leaders in REVIVE as reported by Pastor Vance at the last CBM. For this fall, there are 6 REVIVE groups comprised of 50 registrants led by 7 leaders. The church in general was invited to come out for the Prayer and Worship nights, to which there was great response. Regarding Life Groups, currently there are 107 groups, with 1200 participants served by 177 leaders.

#### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mike Curtis, Nominating Committee Chairman, reminded the congregation that the role of the Nom. Comm. is to nominate church officers, in particular Elders and Deacons/Deaconesses. He reviewed the roles of Deacons, Deaconesses, and Elders, stating that, as a church, we will follow our biblically mandated process, most of which can be found in 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus. In closing, Craig Knickerbocker came up to pray for and over the Nominating Committee as they seek biblically sound people to fill the positions.

#### **SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT**

Rod Lenders, Committee Chairman, reported that the team meets on Wednesday nights and that their focus right now is on prayer. He asked that the congregation join in prayer with them as they seek to do this huge task. For ongoing updates on the committee's process and progress, he directed the congregation to check out "rhcctransition.com." Rod closed his report in prayer.

#### **MINISTRY UPDATES – OUTREACH DEPARTMENT**

Steve Bunyard, Local and Global Outreach Pastor, began by updating us on Global Outreach. RHCC has ministered in over 33 countries with over 50 missionaries. At the time of this meeting, the last two short-term groups are heading out for this year. Eight locations have been chosen for short-term missions next year. He delivered praise from Janet Orr for all those who help to put these teams together to accomplish sharing God's love around the world. We adopted "Loco" hospital in honor of Paul Carlson and provided the funds needed to get more infant incubators. We have and love our "home grown" missionaries: Andy Douglas and (soon) Annie Radinsky in Japan, along with Matt Wilborn in India. In addition, Relgnite Hope is/has expanded to Philadelphia, the Philippines, Brazil, and soon to San Pedro. Also, outfitting of a mobile training unit to accommodate 24

students is underway.

Marcia Trani came up and shared that while she has a new title - Director of Local Outreach – she will still be doing what she's been doing since she came to RHCC in 1996. Her desire is to help relieve Steve with all that he has to do; and her passion is Compassion Ministries. She has great partners working with her: Jamie Niere and Hannah De la Pena. She will be meeting with all ministry partners to assess how we do outreach in order to make changes for the positive. She is interested in training more people in how to share their faith. She will be partnering with the Spanish church to expand that ministry, for example into Harbor City. To close, Hoon prayed for her and the Local Outreach ministry.

### **OPEN FORUM**

Chairman Mike opened the floor for comments/questions from the congregation.

- Mel Nygren commended the staff for filling the pulpit well in this time with no Senior Pastor.
- Kelly DeSical, member of the Spanish congregation, shared that she has been a member of the PSWC as our representative. At first, she thought of herself only as representing RHCC Española, but now she realizes that she represents RHCC in its entirety. A final fact – RHCC is the fastest growing church of the ECC.
- Jessie Austin (nee Sullivan) commented on the importance of congregants attending CBMs. She shared a concern that so few do attend compared to the 1800+ members we have. Could we help attract more by changing the time? Or perhaps provide a livestream?
- Andrew Faris wondered if there was some unknown need for Reignite Hope.
- Terry Richards asked about follow-up of new attenders in general and Pageant attenders specifically. She knows that several response cards are turned in every year at the Pageant of Our Lord and wondered if and how they are contacted. Pastor Garrick responded that contact with first time attenders begins with Donna Artino sending a letter. Connect and Equip Commission then calls and invites them to a Connect Lunch, at which they are invited to join a Life Group. However, he does not know how responses to special events are handled.
- Desi Webster wondered how the CBMs could be more accessible. Chairman Mike stated he would discuss it with the Elder Council and have a response at the next CBM.

### **PRAYER & RECESS**

Tiffany Adams, Student Ministries Administrative Support, adjourned the meeting in prayer at 8:08 pm.

s/Jane Wallin  
Church Secretary