



**ROLLING HILLS COVENANT CHURCH**  
**Quarterly Congregational Business Meeting**  
**DRAFT Minutes**  
**Sunday – March 1, 2020**

**Present:** 459

Michael Barker opened the meeting with the music devotional and worship at 6:55 pm.

**SCRIPTURE & PRAYER**

Chairman Mike Cochrane called the meeting to order in prayer at 7:05 pm. He then prepared our hearts and minds for doing God's business with the following: Scripture emphasizes the importance of talking *with an individual*, rather than talking *about him or her* to another person. In Matthew 18:12-14, Jesus tells the parable of the Lost Sheep. This parable shows true kingdom greatness – going beyond what is expected to reach the “one.” In Matthew 18:15-20, Jesus shows us how to deal with one who sins against us – we must reach out from our heart and forgive. We begin the process by *going to the brother/sister* – if they repent, you forgive – and you move out as restored brothers/sisters. It's a win – win – win situation! Galatians 6:1-3 gives another picture of dealing effectively with sin – sin is discovered – we *go to that one* and restore them. 2 Corinthians 2:5-11 shows the following pattern: one has caused grief – forgive that one – comfort him/her – reaffirm your love for them. Titus 3:10-11 shows us again that we are to *go to the one* who has sinned – in this case, not just once but twice – for the purpose of repentance and restoration. We must deal with our brothers/sisters *directly* as is shown all throughout Scripture – not only in the above referenced verses, but also in all the “one another” commands in Scripture. Talking about someone can be slander – speaking evil of, grumbling about, malicious talk – and is very serious in God's eyes, as can be seen in the following Scriptures: Ps. 101:5; Prov. 10:18; Eph. 4:31; 1 Cor. 5:11; 1 Cor. 6:10; Jas. 4:11; Jas. 5:9; Titus 3:2; 2 Tim. 3:1-6; and 1 Tim. 6:4. Therefore, I again encourage us all to speak *to* a brother or sister, rather than *about* them.

**MEETING RESPONSIBILITIES**

Chairman Cochrane appointed Emily Wandland as the meeting's Parliamentarian. Mike Cooley, John Bibler, Laura Savitz, and Donna Brashear were assigned as tellers.

**MEETING AGENDA**

The meeting agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.

**ADOPT MINUTES**

Minutes from Quarterly Congregational Business Meeting of November 3, 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 1900. Details of the membership changes are as follows:

**Members Added**

1. Adams, Megan
2. Anderson, Ashley
3. Anderson, Paul
4. Ayres, LeAnn P.
5. Brashear, Donna
6. Brown, Liliana
7. Ceman, Sofia
8. Figueroa, A. Karen
9. Flores R., Laura
10. Foster, Camden Alie (Cami)
11. Haase, Sierra
12. Hernandez, Alicea Grace
13. Ishijima, Maki

14. Johnson, Cara
15. Kang, Steve
16. Kerr-Bondruant, Timmie J. (T.J.)
17. Kim, Daniel
18. Kim, Gloria
19. Leung, Amy C.
20. Leung, Joseph C.
21. Mann, Patricia
22. Moore, Cindy
23. Moore, David D.
24. Morgan, Maria Carmelita
25. Morgan, Roger
26. Mori, Jared
27. Negi, Daniel
28. Qualls, Dorothy Marie (Dotti)
29. Qualls, Michael
30. Robertson, Katie

#### **Members Reinstated**

1. Wiseman, Donald (Don) Jr.
2. Wiseman, Tanya

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

1. Potts, Jill E.
2. Potts, Troy D.

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

1. Chelson, Barbara
2. Davies, Juanita A.
3. Hipkins, Chip
4. Mann-Bouey, Theresa
5. Wiersma, Lars S.
6. Wood, Eleanor LeMoyne (LeMoyne)

Gene prayed for the new members. Chairman Cochrane called for a show of hands and the new members were welcomed into the flock by acclamation.

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

Garth Edwards, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report. As of February 29, 2020, the revenues are \$5,870,000 and the expenses are \$5,480,000, which results in a difference of \$390,000.00. It is a favorable note that we are in the positive. We also have \$5,000,000 in Estate Gifts being held in a restricted account, and attendance is down only 2.2% through February 29, 2020.

#### **DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY (GO SERIES) & LIFE GROUP UPDATE**

David Krall, Life Group/Young Adults Pastor presented this update. As a church, we have gone through first "Rooted", and then "Revive." In the fall, he announced that we will begin a new discipleship campaign called "Go!" which will help us go out with the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

#### **RE-IGNITE HOPE ANNOUNCEMENT**

Pastor Steve reminded us that Re-Ignite Hope was birthed 9 years ago. It has grown tremendously over the years, expanding to locations in Gardena, Philadelphia, the Philippines, and Brazil. The next location to open will be in Dallas, Texas – and then perhaps in Cambodia. The recent graduation had 95 graduates! The program will now be 5 days/week. They have a program for Veterans; they will soon begin a program called "LINC" – Ladies in Non-traditional Careers; and they are about to take the training mobile, with a fully outfitted 18-wheeler semi. The Re-Ignite ministry has reached a point where Steve cannot really do it *and* his RHCC position. Sadly, he will be ending his 20 years on staff here at the end of the month. He is forever grateful for RHCC, because both he and his wife, Lorri, were saved here 30 years ago. Therefore, they will remain in attendance here.

Chairman Mike and others gathered around Steve to bless and pray for him and Re-Ignite.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Anthony Galante, Church Vice Chairman, presented the slate of candidates for Officers, Elders, and Commission positions for the 2020 – 2021 church year. He opened receipt of floor nominations as he went along by position/commission and those nominated are included below:

Vice Chairman –	Mike DiLustro, Craig Knickerbocker
Treasurer –	Peter Knickerbocker
Financial Secretary –	Mike Cooley (Incumbent)
Secretary –	Jane Wallin (Incumbent)
Elders –	Steve Bunyard, Mike Curtis, Mark Fredrickson, Clyde LaGue (Incumbent), Jerry Rilling (Incumbent), Richard Smith (Incumbent), Richard Tamble, Anthony Xepolis (floor nomination), Don MacKenzie (floor nomination), Andrew Faris (floor nomination), Dan Murdock (floor nomination)
Children's Commission –	Henry Lin (Incumbent)
Congregational Care Commission –	Kelly DeSical, Sonaleena Hargrove, Rory Hunter, Susan Van Wagner
Connect & Equipping Commission –	Mike Doom, Sharon Fadale, Peter Johnson (Incumbent), Pam Seide
Finance & Property Commission –	Tyler Bowman, Andrew Faris
Global Outreach Commission –	Ana Bomback, Rosie Chia (Incumbent), Alya Lucas, Jenni Kottke (floor nomination)
Life Group Commission –	Eddie Chambers, Covina Evans
Local Outreach Commissions –	Daryl Quan, Chris Davidson (floor nomination), Roger Morgan (floor nomination), Samantha Sardisco (floor nomination), Karen Figueroa (floor nomination)
Personnel Commission –	Katie Applewhite, Phil Hodges, Jr. (Incumbent), Norie Roeder
Stewardship Commission –	Safy Jacob, Oscar Medina
Student Commission –	Mary Beth Eroen, Wendy Okada, Keith Rowan (Incumbent), Emily Wandland
Worship Arts Commission –	Colonya C. Calhoun, Linda Wilson

## **MEXICO SHORT TERM MISSION TRIP REPORT**

Kirk Lantz and team (Ben Eroen, Michael Barker, Steven Sardisco, Mel Ardon and his children) went on a short-term mission to Mexico in September.

Michael Barker was inspired with the idea of bringing a worship team to Mexico, because of the choir trips Pastor David Halvorson has done in the past. Twenty-five worship teams from all around the state came to a church in Tapas to learn about a heart of worship. Michael and team gave out 25 different guitars and some sound equipment, which transformed the worship teams from singing acapella to having accompaniment. They were very grateful.

Mel had the opportunity to share on the radio about the loss of his wife and how to deal with hard times. At one of the gatherings, Kirk's reputation of giving "skate" demos set the stage for Mel to share about his skate "scars" and talk about the greatest scars in history within the gospel of Jesus. The kids they ministered to would never be allowed into a church.

Steven Sardisco gave music lessons to the kids at Mission Mexico in Tapachula using just two guitars and a cajon. The kids were blessed to learn about doing worship.

Kirk reported on a kid outreach they did in a park. About 420 kids and 200 parents/grandparents came. They were able to give each kid a Bible and a toy ball – and they fed each kid! This is just the beginning of a long-term partnership.

Ben shared about a young man name Isaac to whom he ministered. Isaac's long history with Mission Mexico ended when he turned 18. His life took a downward turn when he left the mission. However, just before the team arrived, Isaac had been drawn back to the Mission. He had been invited to stay for a couple weeks to get his life back on track and was so happy to see his "old friend," Kirk. Isaac knew he needed to be set free from the dark forces in his life and asked Kirk and Ben to baptize him! Ben concluded saying that he is so proud to be part of a church that funds and sends people into all the world with the Gospel.

## **SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH TEAM UPDATE W/ PRAYER**

Anne Dokko, Senior Pastor Search Team Member, joined onstage by the other team members (Tom Miller, Emily Tabari, Mike DiLustro, Mike Cochrane, Bill Duncan, Jill Mori, and Rod Lenders) gave a short update. Proverbs 15:22 became the team's focus verse: 'Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.' The team sought advice from and met with other churches and with Paul Wilson, ECC Pacific Southwest Superintendent. They have also been led to use a third party search firm. Once they decide which of two to collaborate with, the firm will search for potential candidates with proper qualifications. The search committee will

be engaged in every step of that process. Next steps for the committee are to develop a senior pastor profile and a job description. She asked that the congregation continue to be in prayer for them and the process.

## **CONGREGATION AFFIRMATION VOTE ON COMPLEMENTARIAN TEACHING STATEMENT ADDITION**

Church Chairman Cochrane set the context of this portion of the CBM as follows.

### A bit of History:

In 1885 Swedish immigrants founded the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC) denomination with a focus on the principles of the centrality and authority of the Bible, the need for a vibrant personal walk with Jesus, and local and global missionary zeal. The ECC was originally founded as a complementarian denomination.

From Paul Wilson, our ECC Pacific Southwest Superintendent, we learned that in 1976 the Evangelical Covenant denomination changed their position from complementarian to egalitarian. The Covenant denomination has always respected the theological positions of its member churches. Our denomination respects RHCC's complementarian position.

RHCC has been a complementarian church since its founding over 60 years ago. We were originally male Senior Pastor and congregationally led. Then in the 1980's, we enlisted a committee to re-write our Constitution and By-Laws and we became male elder, male Senior Pastor and congregationally led.

Also, in the 1980's, back when Gordon Kirk was our pastor, there was discussion among leadership regarding whether RHCC should remain a complementarian church or whether we should allow for women elders. The conclusion at that time (in the 80's) was no women elders and, unfortunately, 3 to 5 families left the church.

### Our Current Adventure:

The current adventure that we are on with the Town Hall last Monday evening and the CBM tonight began about 3 1/2 years ago. Pastor Garrick forwarded an email to me from a single mother congregant whose kids were getting older. She was looking into getting involved in leadership. She was thinking about joining a commission, but ultimately wanted to know why she could not be an elder at RHCC.

I wanted every elder on the RHCC Elder Board and ultimately every congregant to be able to explain our complementarian position to any other congregant that would ask. Therefore, we elders set to work studying the relevant New Testament Scripture passages. We all read the book, Two Views of Women in Ministry. We heard presentations by Pastors Shawn and Steve on the Complementarian and Egalitarian positions from Scripture. We prayed over this matter for 3 1/2 years and ultimately landed on a complementarian position in line with the historical Rolling Hills Covenant Church position.

As Elders who are charged to guard the sound doctrine of the church (Titus 1:9), we did not want to make the same mistake made by those in the 1980's, which was not writing anything down. Therefore, we determined to capture the conclusions of our study in the RHCC Teaching Statement that exists "to prevent confusion or division on these important issues."

- The Teaching Statement is not a doctrinal statement.
- The Teaching Statement is also not meant to capture only our core essentials as a church.
- The Teaching Statement serves as a standard of accountability for all teaching at RHCC.

It contains essentials like the Virgin Birth and the resurrection of Jesus, but it also contains the RHCC position on believers' baptism and our view of communion as a memorial versus some literal presence of Jesus in our celebration of communion.

Our view on baptism and communion are in the Teaching statement because that is our document that captures who we are and what we teach as a body of believers. **The elders unanimously voted** to add to our Teaching statement our view on the complementary roles of men and women. **This is who we are and always have been at RHCC for 63 years.** We have been in a 2-month long "Together" sermon series on the topic of gender in support of the teaching statement addition.

### Town Hall Review

I appreciate everybody who spoke up at the Town Hall last Monday in the North Campus Chapel. The Elder Council listened to everyone at the Town Hall, because they realize and value the need to listen and acknowledge. For those who were not able to attend, here is a summary review of the Monday Town Hall:

- There was almost no comment on theology.
- There were less than a handful of comments on interpretations of specific New Testament Scriptures.

- Almost all the comments were speaking about objections and hurt feelings over the short paper.
- There was almost no comment on the Teaching Statement addition itself.

After listening and praying over the last several months, we as leaders must now ask ourselves, 'what does proper leadership do and what does good shepherding look like?'

To that end,

- 1) The Elder Council will re-visit the Complementarian short paper with all the inputs received, and
- 2) As an Elder Council, we believe we must move forward with a congregational vote of affirmation of the Complementarian Teaching Statement addition tonight.

Therefore, on behalf of the Elder Council,

***"I move that the congregation affirm the Teaching Statement addition as written on the back of the agenda for this meeting."***

[ Projected Additions to the Teaching Statement (from the back of the CBM agenda) –

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 qualities 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, both men and 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.]

Immediately following Chairman Cochrane's motion, Edward Lassiter, Bill Duncan, and Phil Hodges ***"moved to postpone indefinitely the motion to revise the Teaching Statement."***

They stated that there is sufficient existing RHCC church policy, which was set in 1986. In addition, the congregation has spoken clearly on the subject on two occasions – on the church survey and at the Town Hall. The church survey revealed division in the church and the need to focus on eliminating what divides us.

The floor was opened for statements from the congregation:

**Wayne Chamberlain** suggested that the EC create two committees – one Complementarian, the other Egalitarian – to gather information for everyone to read and learn from for a period of time and then take a vote.

**Lou Whallon** first thanked the elders for putting forth the addition to the Teaching Statement and thanked the pastors for their good teaching on the subject. He said they have accurately taught the congregation and we need to support that. He also stated that we have an important decision to face on whom our authority comes from.

**Laura Savitz** stated that she trusts in what the Lord says and prefers not to postpone. Although she may not always understand it, she desires to stay true to God's word.

**Tiffany Adams** disagrees with the articulation of the Teaching Statement addition and the paper needs to be more affirming.

**Susan Van Wagner** said the Teaching Statement addition needs to include a welcoming statement to all.

**Corey Thompson** stated that if one part suffers, all suffer.

**Jeannine Hanger** cited Ephesians 4:3 – "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace," and a few other verses, stating that we should not go forward with the original motion. Pushing through with the vote would be unhealthy.

**Steve Stout** related that his upbringing was by strong women. He also stated that we only had teaching from the New Testament affirming the Complementarian view, and nothing was taught on the Egalitarian view or from the Old Testament. Therefore, he agrees with the motion to postpone.

**Pam Seide** stated that the Teaching Statement addition and paper open too many doors to misinterpretation. She is in favor of postponing.

**Maureen Sassoon** proposed that Ed amend the motion by removing the word "indefinitely." Having been an elder at another church and wondering why RHCC had only male elders, Vergil Best counseled her that male elders bring in men and their wives and their children

**Robin Bochrath** wondered why we were even doing this and spending so much energy on it, when the By-Laws are clear.

**Nancy Thomason** stated that Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. She thanked the pastors for the gutsy preaching, and stated that the Bible needs to remain our yardstick.

**Andrew Faris** asked Chairman Mike about the consideration to delay that came up at the Town hall. (The Chairman said that the Elder Council decided not to delay.) He also asked what the pastoral response is to the hurts voiced and for time to bear with one another through this.

**Chairman Cochrane asked Pastor Steve to the microphone to address the aforementioned concerns.**

Steve first offered words of encouragement, reminding everyone that the Elder Council is made up of men the congregation voted into office - men who are doing their best, men who study the Bible, men of prayer, men with hearts full of care for the whole congregation, men who represent the flock. He said that this is a tough issue that has had much too much time spent on it, especially when it has nothing to do with the mission of our church and while we have a community of 800,000 around us living in darkness. The Elders would like to bring this to a conclusion so they can move on to God's work. Delaying will not change anyone's mind. He ended with a plea for all to keep loving "these men" (the Elder Council). He called for the question to end the discussion on the motion to postpone. The congregation unanimously agreed.

**Phil Hodges** responded to the question to remove the word "indefinitely" from the motion with "no, it will not be removed."

Chairman Cochrane then directed the members in the congregation to cast written ballots on the motion to postpone. The motion passed by a small margin: **203 – Yes, 196 – No.**

Chairman Cochrane responded with the following statement:

**There is a key question that has surfaced in the last several months for our consideration:**

**Must we all agree with each other to remain fellow RHCC members – brothers and sisters – at the same church?**

**Romans 15:7 tells us to "accept or welcome one another, just as Christ accepted us in order to bring praise to God". We must accept each other in grace and truth.**

**We do not need to agree with everyone, whether a brother or sister in Christ at RHCC, or someone outside the church for whom Christ died. We must choose to love in grace and truth all of our brothers and sisters at RHCC. You each have to make the choice to love.**

**We entered this place as loving brothers and sisters; we spent this time together as loving brothers and sisters; and we will leave this place as loving brothers and sisters.**

## **RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman Cochrane stated that Vance Hartzell had resigned, as was already widely known by his letter to the congregation.

## **OPEN FORUM**

At this time, Lloyd Gilbert came before the congregation. This was a heavy moment for him in that he needed to confess it was he that provided the email addresses to Jordan Wheeler to send out an unapproved email to several members. He asked for the congregation's forgiveness. Although he was excited about the prospect of this email getting people involved, he confessed that it was wrong and an arrogant thing to do without following protocol. He is so broken that it has caused such divisiveness. This is not his heart, as he has only ever wanted us all to come together. In conclusion, he stated that, while he is egalitarian, he submits to RHCC's stance as complementarian and supports in word and deed that position to others.

Jordan Wheeler also addressed the congregation. He stated that he loves and respects RHCC and apologized to all that he hurt so much by his actions. He did not intend to be divisive. He repents and asks for forgiveness.

## **PRAYER & RECESS**

Richelle Bergley, Children's Ministries Director, joined by young friend Javi, adjourned the meeting at 9:30 pm by singing the Doxology.

s/Jane Wallin  
Church Secretary