

ROLLING HILLS COVENANT CHURCH
Elder Council – Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2020 (Approved 05/04/20)

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Name	Position	Present	Absent
Mike Cochrane	Chairman	X	
Anthony Galante	Vice Chairman	X	
Clyde LaGue	Elder – Children’s Commission	X	
Jerry Rilling	Elder – Congregational Care	X	
Gene Chou	Elder – Connect & Equip Commission	X	
(Anthony Galante)	Elder – Finance & Property Commission	√	√
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	
Sam Evans	Interim Senior Pastor	X	
Shawn Hurley	Executive Preaching Pastor	X	
Garrick Hanger	Associate Pastor – Adult Ministries	X	
Bob Cubillos	Business Administrator		X
Jane Wallin	Secretary	X	

At 7:04 PM, Chairman Mike opened this virtual meeting with prayer.
 (Guests to this meeting are Mike Cooley, Garth Edwards, and Peter Knickerbocker.)

DEVOTIONAL – MARK 8:34-38

Anthony’s reflections on this passage began at the most important part of verse 34 -- the phrase “taking up one’s cross.” Sometimes we assign a trivial thing in our life as “our cross” – a long commute, a cranky co-worker, a bad habit, etc. However, the cross is an instrument of death – and, for us as believers, it means total self-denial, total death to self. Reflecting on verse 35, we can see that the world tells us that pursuing ease, comfort, and acceptance is the way to save your life; but as believers, we know that is totally opposite of what Jesus tells us to do. Verses 36 – 37 ask us what we will give up to gain our soul. Will we give up everything to be with Jesus? Fame, fortune, etc.? Finally, in verse 38, we are reminded that we want to take care that we do not bring shame to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. One way we can be careful not to is to follow 1 Peter 3:15 – “always be ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you for a reason for your hope.” A final question to ask ourselves – is it enough to have just Jesus and me?

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The meeting agenda was adopted.

ELDER PRAYERS

Ben, Shawn, and Jerry led the elders in prayer for the needs of the congregation.

MINUTES

The minutes from the 04/06/2020 meeting were approved by acclamation.

[Information Item: We are awaiting the F&P approval of 2020-2021 IT Budget Request Wed-4/22. We already approved 9-3 pending F&P approval in an email vote March 20 & 21.]

FUTURE WORSHIP SERVICE SCENARIOS TEAM UPDATE

Pastor Sam foresees a slow comeback to what we had before. Pastor Shawn reflected that while things changed very quickly and dramatically in just 4 days in March (gatherings were limited to 1,000 to 50, to 10 and finally to shelter at home), the reopening will probably be just the opposite, with changes being very slow. It is possible that we will not be back to full capacity until 2021. Following are some questions he and Pastor Sam are thinking

about: How do we do a slow reopen with such a large congregation? How do we minister to those among the 10,000 viewers that are new believers – to help them learn to walk with Jesus? What if we can have only 250 people meet together at one time? How are other churches planning to handle it? Sam Tabari is helping Shawn network with other churches and develop ideas, which will then be presented to Pastor Sam, Chairman Mike, and the EC to handle as God directs.

There are other reopening questions regarding staff returning to campus. Age, health, etc. will be factors to consider.

NEW SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH TEAM UPDATE

Rod reported that they have contracted Agora Search Group. The team will be doing Zoom calls with different church groups and key staff to get their input as Agora directs.

BCWI ELDER SURVEY RESPONSES & ACTION PLANS REVIEW & VOLUNTEER

Clyde succinctly, yet thoroughly, reviewed 15 key action items as revealed by the BCWI Elder Survey. He requested that each elder choose one group to “champion” and another group to serve as “backup driver.” However, the EC agreed to have Clyde assign the elders to the groups rather than going through a time-consuming volunteer process. Of course, an elder may make his preference for a particular group known if so chooses.

ACTION ITEMS RECAP

Pastor Shawn and Sam Tabari will research the how-to's and when's of all the facets of “opening” the church again (staff returning to campus, Sunday worship services, etc.).

Clyde will assign elders to BCWI Action Groups.
Elders can begin working with their above-assigned groups.

Sam E. / Mike C. to compose cover page for budget by middle of April and get approval from Elder Council.

All departments will write up a page of ‘year in review,’ as well as ‘looking ahead’ to add to budget handout for congregation.

STAFF ROUNDTABLE – See Appendix A

ELDER ROUNDTABLE – See Appendix B

Anthony adjourned the meeting in prayer at 8:12 pm.

Next ECM Dates – Meeting Virtually:

May 4 & 18, and June 1 & 15, 2020.

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

Next CBM Dates:

? (After May 3), September 20, and November 8, 2020.

s/Jane Wallin
Secretary

APPENDIX A – STAFF UPDATES

Sam

Weekending 4/10/20 Weekly Staff Update to Elders

1. Adult Team

- a. Life Groups continue to take advantage of video connections (primarily Zoom). David Krall continues to teach as well as provide sermon response questions for the groups that are following Sermon Based models.
- b. Congregational Care continues with processing benevolence requests and connecting with congregants in need. Susan Johnson is working with our High School ministry to make connections between them and our seniors. Initially they are fashioning “friendship bracelets” to send to the seniors and it is hoped that this will help with connections as well as bridging the generations.
- c. Women’s ministries is also using technology to reach out and connect with our women. They are experimenting with a variety of ministry ideas and looking at how God will use them.
- d. CR participants continue to meet via Zoom and are quite delighted to as they are finding it helpful to their process.

2. Students:

- a. Continuing to broadcast their sermons and meet via Zoom and iPhone broadcasting.
- b. Hunter is reporting that the students are finding that this is a time for a deeper connection with the Lord.
- c. Currently giving thought to how this will affect summer: Delta, senior sendoff, etc.

3. Communications:

- a. We are seeing a lot of fruit as a result of their efforts: visits to our webpage have grown from 2,000 a week to 10,000 a week.
- b. The entire crew is actively and constantly engaged in developing content: videos, devotionals, written content, updating all of the various ministry web pages, etc.
- c. They have seen a dramatic increase in the number of visits to the children’s pages as parents search for and retrieve material.
- d. Our social media platforms are being kept up to the minute.
- e. The Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday services as well as four weeks of worship sets have been recorded. They are currently in the process of editing them for posting to the website.

4. WAC:

- a. As noted above, we have completed worship sets recorded. Working on developing content beyond these. It has been challenging to include more blended as those who would normally participate have declined due to concerns of exposure. David and Michael are hopeful that more can be included going forward.
- b. Developing a plan for removal of scaffolding and art pieces from the sanctuary. We are not being charged for the scaffolding.

5. Children’s

- a. Continuing to develop and post content (see above).
- b. So far have been able to find meaningful and productive work for the staff.

6. Global / Local:

- a. Missionaries are reporting in that because of the crisis donations are drying up. This comes at a time when the needs are the greatest.
- b. Global Commission met and voted, with EC approval, to utilize \$200,000 from the trust fund to support their efforts. A committee has been formed to assess and validate the needs in order to ensure accountability.
- c. Local outreach continues to be actively engaged in meeting the needs of the community around us – particularly Lomita and Wilmington. They have been able to provide a significant amount of groceries and with every bag they are given the Gospel!

7. Prayer requests:

- a. Some departments are more heavily taxed with workload than others. Please pray for perseverance for those that are being pressed into extended service (as an example, Communications).
 - b. The novelty of doing ministry from home is wearing off. Please pray for energy, fresh ideas, and guarding against “cabin fever.”
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Shawn

Hello everyone! Here is a brief update on what is happening “on campus” this week.

April 17, 2020

Easter and Good Friday were a huge success: With over 10,000 viewers of the sermon and giving exceeding \$133,000, this was strangely one of the most significant Easter weekends in our history. Although we grieve not being together and are anxious for life to return to normal, there is a sense of deep satisfaction amongst all of the staff for what was accomplished.

A few Covid19 deaths struck close to home: This week Shannon Magana’s brother in law, Manuel, passed away at the age of 38, leaving behind three children and a fiancée. Amongst our congregation, Bob Brewster also passed away from Covid19. In more hopeful news, Bob Alley is feeling better and reached out to the staff this week thanking them for their prayers and support. He is not 100% yet, but he is significantly better than he was.

We are asking staff to redirect their attention from content to connection: We have done an incredible job producing worship, devotionals, sermons, and Bible studies for the church, and now feel competent in our ability to continue to produce this. Many of our congregants, though, have moved out of the early adrenaline rush of the crisis and are now reaching the point of frustration and boredom. What our people need right now is to talk to other believers, share their lives, and receive encouragement as they reorganize every part of their life. It is our belief that the best pastoring we can do right now is to continue to reach out to congregants and create connection points

between them for support and strength, knowing that the content arm of the church is already strong. This will be a growing trend in our programming over the next few months.

This week our new series on the Sermon on the Mount kicks off. This will be a 12-week series, and Sam Evans will start this weekend by focusing on the Beatitudes.

We are working on creating worship that works across generations: David Halverson has been nervous to return to worship leading given his age and "at risk" status from Covid19, and so have other choir members. As a result, David has asked Michael to carry a heavier load in this season, and Michael has done a great job. There have been important lessons learned (such as tighter dress codes for our musicians), but we are confident in our ability to get better each filming.

We are beginning to create contingency plans for ministries: There is so much that we do not know about Covid19 or a vaccine or when life will return to normal. It seems increasingly likely that even when the stay at home order is lifted, it may be months before we can gather as we used to. As a result, ministries are actively creating ministry plans based upon an inability to do VBS, summer camps, retreats, or weekend worship. These plans will be updated throughout the crisis, but they give us the ability to pivot quickly once change occurs.

Local Outreach continues to hand out food to needs congregants: We have almost distributed our entire first load of groceries, with most going to the elderly and homebound. Many pastors have stories of meeting and praying with people in Lomita, Gardena, and Wilmington who have been affected. The next round of groceries will be put together and distributed later this month.

Campus renovations are underway: If you download the attached picture, you will see the newly painted 290's. Work on the children's classes has begun as well, with more pictures coming shortly.

We are trying to learn as quickly as we can. We are actively networking with other churches, sitting in on webinars, and reading to see what other churches have learned throughout the crisis. We have found our brothers and sisters in Christ to be both incredible encouragers and sharpeners of our own thoughts.

Thank you, everyone. Your prayers are appreciated and felt by all of us on staff.

For Him and with you,

Shawn

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)