

ROLLING HILLS COVENANT CHURCH
Elder Council – Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2020 (Approved 10/19/20)

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Name	Position	Present	Absent
Mike Cochrane	Chairman	X	
Mike DiLustro	Vice Chairman	X	
Clyde LaGue	Elder – Children’s Commission	X	
Steve Bunyard	Elder – Congregational Care	X	
Jerry Rilling	Elder – Connect & Equip Commission	X	
Gene Chou	Elder – Finance & Property Commission	X	
Craig Knickerbocker	Elder – Global Outreach Commission	X	
Mike Curtis	Elder – Life Group Commission	X	
Dan Murdoch	Elder – Local Outreach Commission	X	
Terry Wheeler	Elder – Personnel Commission	X	
Mark Fredrickson	Elder – Stewardship Commission	X	
Rod Lenders	Elder – Student Commission	X	
Rich Tamble	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	

Sam Tabari is also present.

At 7:02 PM, Chairman Cochrane opened this safe, in-person meeting in prayer.

ADOPT AGENDA

With delaying the BCWI Projects Report until the next ECM, the meeting agenda was adopted.

DEVOTIONAL – JAMES 3:13-18

Clyde began by reading the James passage: *“¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”*

First, he asked the elders to picture themselves as Jewish believers in 44 AD where Herod Agrippa 1 has just authorized violence against Christians – and so they have fled (as we know from Acts 12). Sometime between 44 AD and 49 AD, James writes to the 12 tribes that are now scattered due to this persecution. In these verses, James describes two kinds of wisdom (God’s true wisdom and man’s false wisdom) and how each affects our lives.

In verse 13, the one who is wise or has wisdom is described best in Proverbs 3:13-15 – “Blessed is the one who finds Wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her.”

Meekness in the Greek is ‘gentleness and humility.’

*In verse 14, the words “bitter jealousy” refer to a state of affliction, misery, and servitude that drives one’s desire or uncontrollable quest for what someone else has – or to be who someone else is. The term selfish ambition is from the single Greek word “eritheia,” which is sometimes translated as strife, and which refers to selfish ambition that engenders antagonism and factionalism. Further, factionalism is defined as ‘a situation in which a group forms within a larger group, especially one with slightly different ideas from the main group.’ Now, Paul, writing to the church in Philippi, tells us to “do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourself.” Finally, “in your hearts” refers to the root of human ambition and motivation. The heart is where both belief and unbelief, righteousness, and sin originate. At the end of the verse, the NKJV puts it, “do not boast and **lie** against the truth.”*

In verse 15, James begins to compare God’s wisdom (which is from above) and man’s wisdom (which is of the world, the flesh, and the devil – and produces destruction). Earthly wisdom has its roots in Satanic prompting,

which produces selfish desires and fleshly gains as outlined previously in verse 14. *Unspiritual wisdom* is natural, man-made wisdom, totally separated from the Spirit of God. Those who possess it are unable to see or understand the things of God. *Demonic wisdom* is self-defining. The word *demonic* means *of the devil* and this kind of wisdom is rooted in Satan.

Regarding verse 16, the byproduct of man's earthly, unspiritual, demonic wisdom (rooted in selfishness, jealousy, envy, and strife) is confusion, disorder, destruction, and evil.

In verse 17, James provides a list of the virtues of God's wisdom as compared to man's wisdom. Paul echoes many of James' sentiments in Galatians 5:22-23, "*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, self-control.*"

Finally, verse 18 is embodied in Isaiah 32:17, "*And the effect of righteousness will be peace and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever.*" God's wisdom from above is bountiful in righteousness when planted with the seeds of peace by those who seek and serve the Prince of Peace, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

ELDER PRAYERS

The EC was so grateful to be meeting in person again. After sharing prayer requests, Dan opened, followed by conversational prayers, and closed by Gene.

APPROVE PRIOR ELDER MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the 09/15/2020 EC meeting were approved by acclamation.

TENT WORSHIP SERVICE TEAM STATUS AND DEBRIEF

Sam Tabari reminded the EC that the mobile app had been launched in August, which contributed much to viewership. He reported approximately 43,000 sermon plays through the app and the website. Additionally, even with the in-person tent services, the numbers watching livestream and online continue to increase each week. Our 'attendance' is consistently around 800 'devices' (which may represent more than one person), along with the last 4-week average tent service attendance of approximately 600. This translates to about 32% of our average pre-Covid church attendance. This is comparable to the 30% attendance other churches our size have reported. Conservatively, with 800 devices X 2 people + 600 in-person, our weekend attendance is 2,200 – 2,500.

GIVING FORECAST FOR FY 2020-2021 / CASH FLOW MANAGEMENT REPORT

Bob was grateful for a favorable outcome of the Budget portion of the Congregational Business Meeting and expressed thanks to Gene and Chairman Mike for their presentation. Since August's income (~ \$622K) was less than actual expenses (~ \$652K), we borrowed \$40K from our cash management account to offset. We are blessed by God to be able to manage our cash in this way. Because of His kindness, we see stability in that necessary safeguards are in place. Our Cash Management account, HES, and Capital Resource accounts are all at good levels. Furthermore, we are watching our donor habits closely, as we have approximately 300 donors not giving right now. Misty is working hard on closing down September for us.

CBM DEBRIEF

The elders expressed thanks that we could meet and finally pass the budget. In addition, a good result of Covid is that the membership list went through a much needed cleanup process, which was reflected in Donna's report. Statements made by church members regarding Pastor Shawn reveal that great division still exists, despite the efforts of the EC to unify us. As a result, the EC's resolve concerning the spiritual health of each and every soul in our congregation is renewed and strengthened.

PERSONNEL POLICY REVIEW AND AFFIRMATION

Bob presented the updated Personnel Policy on *Church Computers and Internet Access*. Recent events caused a new look at this policy. Updates were made and specifics were added, plus a signature page, which F&P approved and affirmed.

Bob moved that the EC affirm the Church Computers and Internet Access Policy Statement. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

CLOSING PRAYER

Vice Chairman Mike DiLustro concluded the main meeting in prayer at 8:36 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The EC continued discussion in executive session.

ACTION ITEMS RECAP

N/A

STAFF ROUNDTABLE – See Appendix A

ELDER ROUNDTABLE – See Appendix B

Next ECM Dates – (Meeting in person safely):

October 19, November 2 & 16, and December 7, 2020; and January 18, 2021.

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

Next CBM Dates:

November 8, 2020; February 28, May 2, September 19, and November 14, 2021.

s/Jane Wallin
Secretary

APPENDIX A – STAFF UPDATES

Sam

Shawn

Garrick

APPENDIX B – ELDER UPDATES

CHAIRMAN (Mike Cochrane)

CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES (Clyde LaGue)

CONGREGATIONAL CARE (Steve Bunyard)

CONNECT & EQUIP (Jerry Rilling)

FINANCE & PROPERTY (Gene Chou)

GLOBAL OUTREACH (Craig Knickerbocker)

LIFE GROUP (Mike Curtis)

LOCAL OUTREACH (Dan Murdoch)

PERSONNEL (Terry Wheeler)

STEWARDSHIP (Mark Fredrickson)

STUDENT MINISTRIES (Rod Lenders)

WORSHIP ARTS (Rich Tamble)