

ROLLING HILLS COVENANT CHURCH
Elder Council – Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2020 (Approved 01/18/21)

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Name	Position	Present	Absent
Mike Cochrane	Chairman	X	
Mike DiLustro	Vice Chairman	X	
Sam Evans	Interim Senior Pastor	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	
Bob Cubillos	Business Administrator	X	
Sam Tabari	Director of Communications & Strategy		X
Jane Wallin	Secretary	X	

At 7:02 PM, Chairman Cochrane opened this virtual meeting in prayer.

ADOPT AGENDA

The meeting agenda was adopted as is.

DEVOTIONAL

Pastor Sam gave a devotional from 2 Peter 1:3-8. As we head into Christmas and then the New Year, he suggested that we might make some “resolutions”; when we do, we need to choose things that really matter. Taking a “spiritual check-up” is a good practice to accomplish this at this time of year. Beginning with v.3 – “His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness” – we see that God has granted us ALL the things we need for godly living. In addition, the word ‘knowledge’ refers to our relationship with Him. Verse 4 – “Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires” – shows us that God has given us the ability to ‘participate in His divine nature’ through the promises He has given us. Next in verses 5-7 it says, “For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.” Beginning with faith, we must engage our mind, body, and spirit to ADD to our faith. We add goodness, which is doing right and which requires diligent training, so that we do the right thing ALL the time. We add knowledge and self-control, which is the discipline of self. We add perseverance, which withstands trial and pressure. (When a sponge is squeezed, only what’s in it comes out. The same goes for our hearts under pressure.) Finally, we add godliness, brotherly love, and agape love. Verse 8 encourages us saying that if we possess and are growing in these qualities, they will keep us from being ineffective, unproductive, and even from falling away. In the Christian life, we only go forward or backward; there is no in-between. We go forward by pursuing these qualities with mind, body, and spirit, and with the zeal to be the best godly men as elders we can be.

ELDER PRAYERS

The EC prayed for the loss of those who died, for the struggles of Covid and everything related to it, rejoiced with Pastor Mel and his new bride, and for other concerns and requests of the church body.

APPROVE PRIOR ELDER MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the 11/30/2020 EC meeting were approved with correction to “virtual meeting” rather than “in-person” and correction of Giving Forecast wording given by Bob C.

CHURCH PLANT STATUS

Pastor Sam presented the Church Plant and Church Separation Agreements made with Pastors Shawn and Garrick. The EC affirmed these agreements, with Mark abstaining. Additionally, Rod stated he affirmed in stand with the EC, but disagreed.

TIMING FOR NEXT NOM. COMM. DISCUSSION

This discussion made it clear that a Nom. Comm. cannot logistically be created right now. With Covid restrictions preventing us from in-person meetings, and thus making floor nominations impossible, we must defer for now. In addition, we must wait to see how everything will work out with regard to the congregants that stay and those that move with the church plant.

GIVING FORECAST FOR FY 2020-2021/CASH FLOW MGMT. REPORT

Bob expressed his gratefulness to God and the congregation for some larger donations and several gifts of appreciated stock that were recently received for our year-end giving focus. Our financial position continues to be manageable. He then reported that, while we have drawn down on the Home Equity Sharing Account that temporarily assists with our cash flow needs, there is still approximately \$523,000 in the account. He does not want to utilize any more than \$123,000 so as to have \$400,000 available for the Home Equity Sharing needs of the new Senior Pastor, if needed. He then stated that with the unknowns associated with giving and expenses in our current environment and the impact of donors transferring to the church plant, Gene and he recently discussed the need to construct various budget reduction scenarios that will help our budgeting process that begins in January.

INTERIM STAFF POSITIONS DISCUSSION

Pastor Sam made known his need for help. He has been doing the work of Senior Pastor and Executive Pastor, which is too much for one man. He recommended Sam Tabari as an excellent person to do the work of the Executive Pastor. Of course, the title of the position would be modified to "Interim Executive Director", since he is not a pastor. Pastor Sam then recommended that Patty Shearing be elevated to Sam's position as "Interim Director of Communications." There are also staffing needs in High School, Life Groups, and Worship Arts. There is some time to work on staffing for HS and L.G., as they both will break for the Christmas holiday. Contemporary Worship, however, is of utmost importance to continue providing. These staff needs will be top priority at the January 18 EC meeting.

CLOSING PRAYER

Vice Chairman Mike DiLustro concluded the meeting in prayer at 8:56 pm.

ACTION ITEMS RECAP

N/A

STAFF ROUNDTABLE – See Appendix A

ELDER ROUNDTABLE – See Appendix B

Next ECM Dates – (Meeting virtually or safely in-person following LA County guidelines):

January 18, February 1 & 15, 2021.

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

Next CBM Dates:

In accordance with the directives from LA County beginning at the end of November 2020 and ongoing, we announced that the CBMs and all other on-campus ministries (Students, Women's events, etc.) are canceled.

s/Jane Wallin
Secretary

APPENDIX A – STAFF UPDATES

INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR (Sam Evans)

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)