

ROLLING HILLS COVENANT CHURCH
Elder Council – Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2021 (Approved 03/15/2021)

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	
Craig Knickerbocker	Elder – Finance & Property Commission	X	
Gene Chou	Elder – Global Outreach Commission	X	
Mike Curtis	Elder – Life Group Commission	X	
Dan Murdoch	Elder – Local Outreach Commission		X
(Vacant)	Elder – Personnel Commission	---	
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	Interim Executive Director	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

Sam Tabari chose the topic of “Unity in the Church”, as this has been on his heart for the last two years. He began by reading Romans 1:8-17 ---

*‘First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God’s will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine. I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles. I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. **So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”’*

Focusing on verse 15, Sam reminded the elders of the strong tensions between the Gentile Christians and the Jewish Christians in the church in Rome at the time, and of how Paul desired to see unity between them. Paul says that he is eager to preach the gospel to them, which indicates that the Gospel is not only for the unbeliever, but also for the believer. Our church has had many events/issues in the last two years that have caused disunity. Citing a book called “Sound Doctrine by Bobby Jamieson,” Sam stated that the essentials to having unity are the Gospel and sound doctrine:

“It’s all too easy to unite our churches around things besides the gospel and sound doctrine, like political stances, music style, denominational traditions, or just about anything else. The Gospel and sound doctrine are not only the foundations of unity; they are the restorer of unity. They not only provide the pattern for unity, they help to realign a church with that pattern when it has been bent out of shape.”

1.) Unity comes through the gospel. (Paul recognized this.)

'What is the Gospel?' by Greg Gilbert speaks to this:

"An emaciated gospel leads to emaciated worship. It lowers our eyes from God to self and cheapens what God has accomplished for us in Christ. The biblical gospel, by contrast, is like fuel in the furnace of worship. The more you understand about it, believe it, and rely on it, the more you adore God both for who He is and for what He has done for us in Christ."

2.) Unity also comes through sound doctrine.

'Sound Doctrine' speaks to this:

"Sound doctrine leads to sound faith, sound hearts, and sound consciences. And these become the foundation from which flows an entire life that is pleasing to God. The aim of sound doctrine is sound living, this means that the godly life which flows from sound doctrine is not merely an individual matter. Rather, sound doctrine is for life in the church."

Sam is pleased to see that the EC has stood firm for sound doctrine and unity in the church, while weathering some hard hits. Moreover, he sees that the elders are leading the church toward sound living through sound doctrine. His prayer is that our church will be unified, especially as the EC leads us to unity through the Gospel and sound doctrine.

ELDER PRAYERS

The EC prayed for several in our congregation with major health concerns, for the Senior Pastor search, for the NomComm vote over the next 3 days, and gave praise for an uptick in giving from the congregation.

APPROVE PRIOR ELDER MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the 1/18/2021 EC meeting were approved by acclamation.

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

The Elders discussed the budget for FY 2021/2022. Bob stated that the two men who make budget projections for us had some difficulty doing so this year. This is because they rely a lot on attendance figures and our attendance has been, is, and will be in a state of flux for quite some time. From these budget projections, the Finance & Property and Stewardship Commissions plus the EC make their decisions about the budget for the next FY. The men proposed a budget amount of \$5.81 million, which the F&P and Stewardship Commissions had already voted on and approved. As the EC discussed this number, they all agreed that each Commission will need to find and make cuts in proportion to the Commission's budget. With that said, Chairman Mike moved that they approve the proposed budget of \$5.81 million. The motion was seconded and was approved by acclamation.

Bob reported that the Business Office will continue to keep a close eye on income and expenses. Misty will update the Cash Flow Summary Forecast with the weekly income and expense data. With our large fluctuations in giving, and even with our reduced spending, the forecast currently indicates that expenses may exceed the \$500K set aside in our trust fund by \$100K. However, Bob emphasized that this figure changes every week depending on our income and expenses.

TIMING FOR NOM COMM AND ELECTION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

Thirty-three names were submitted for nomination to the NomComm. However, after vetting them all, several people had not been asked before their names were submitted and did not agree to the nomination. Finally, twenty-one names went on the ballot. The voting will take place this week, Tuesday through Thursday.

WORSHIP DIRECTOR SEARCH UPDATE

Sam Tabari reported that, when he and this great search team met last week, they decided to contract with a company that will provide us with a Contemporary Worship leader every other week until we find a permanent leader. This person will provide continuity, as the same person will come each time. We have the ability to change this temporary person if we decide they are not a good fit. This same company will also assist us in finding a permanent worship leader of good caliber. We need to expect this search to take a little longer because of this season of Covid. Next, Sam updated the EC on the search for a High School Director. This search team has only met once to date; while there have not been many applicants yet, one "cold call" applicant looks promising. Finally, the search for a Life Group Director has not begun yet, as the priority has been placed on filling the above two positions.

SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH TEAM UPDATE

Rod reported that the team has found three candidates that stand out above the others. All three have medium large families (two families with 5 children, the other with 4 children) and live in large homes with acreage. Because of this, Rod asked the EC to increase the Home Equity Share so that any one of these men would be able to get a home to meet their needs. The EC fully agreed with this increase to ensure that we get God's man for RHCC. In addition, the EC committed to pray that one of these three is the one for us and that the Lord would sear the call on his heart.

COMMISSIONING OF SAM TABARI

Chairman Mike moved that Sam Tabari be commissioned for Gospel Ministry. The motion was seconded and approved by acclamation. Sam Tabari's commissioning will be the last commissioning done with a non-committee process. After tonight, February 15, 2021, we will follow the commissioning committee process per the By-Laws.

APPROVE APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS

Chairman Mike stated that Rich would like to add Laura Savitz to the Worship Arts Commission for (1) year. She will be a volunteer during that time and then be added to the ballot. This eliminates the need for appointment and EC approval.

CLOSING PRAYER

Vice Chairman Mike DiLustro concluded the meeting in prayer at 8:50 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):

February 22, March 15, April 5 & 19, 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)

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (Sam Tabari)

APPENDIX B – ELDER UPDATES

CHAIRMAN (Mike Cochrane)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES (Clyde LaGue)

CONGREGATIONAL CARE (Steve Bunyard)

CONNECT & EQUIP (Jerry Rilling)

FINANCE & PROPERTY (Craig Knickerbocker)

GLOBAL OUTREACH (Gene Chou)

LIFE GROUP (Mike Curtis)

LOCAL OUTREACH (Dan Murdoch)

PERSONNEL (*Vacant*)

STEWARDSHIP (Mark Fredrickson)

STUDENT MINISTRIES (Rod Lenders)

WORSHIP ARTS (Rich Tamble)