

ROLLING HILLS COVENANT CHURCH
Elder Council – Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2021 (Approved 04/05/2021)

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Name	Position	Present	Absent
Mike Cochrane	Chairman	X	
Mike DiLustro	Vice Chairman	X	
Sam Evans	Interim Senior Pastor	X	
Sam Tabari	Interim Executive Director	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	
Jane Wallin	Secretary	X	

At 7:04 PM, Chairman Cochrane opened the meeting in prayer praising God that He is faithful and trustworthy and that we can always depend on Him and His direction through the Holy Spirit.

Some pre-business items: We need volunteers to attend the PSW conference in June; and as stated in the last ECM minutes, we will do no further commissioning until we have our new Senior Pastor.

ADOPT AGENDA

The meeting agenda was adopted as is.

DEVOTIONAL – 1 Samuel 17:34-47

Pastor Sam began noting that almost one year ago to the day we went on ‘lockdown.’ He wanted the EC to have that in mind as they look at this section in 1 Samuel. Almost 15 years passed between David being anointed by Samuel and taking the crown. David really trusted God during that time. God did His part in preparing the way to David’s kingship; David did his part. Sam has often seen this happen; it’s always a cooperative effort – our work and God’s work in us. David heard the challenge of the Philistines to fight Goliath and, without hesitation, he volunteered to go out and fight for Israel. Now, when we go through difficulties, we want to remember certain things:

1. God is in the midst of it and we can have confidence in Him. In verses 34 – 37, David referred back to those life-threatening situations in his life when the Lord delivered him as the basis of his confidence that God would do so now. Our situation at RHCC seems like a ‘Goliath’ moment. Like David, we can count on God to bring us through. We have the evidence in how God brought us through our 2008 financial ‘crisis.’
2. David said the battle is the Lord’s no matter what. Now Saul tried to prepare David by having David wear his armor. However, David was not used to heavy armor. David chose what he knew – five smooth stones. Why five? Perhaps because Goliath had four brothers – or simply to be prepared. We can see God’s hand in all of the events of the past 2 years at RHCC. Just like David, we will prepare for what we can and trust the Lord for the rest.

ELDER PRAYERS

The EC praised God for a wonderful answer to a prayer offered for many years! They continued in supplication for our new Senior Pastor, for a new Music Director, the decline of Covid, the return of our members and a new influx of members. They prayed for humility and to keep their focus on God; to be good fathers, husbands, and elders; and for direction as the budget is finalized. They gave praises to the Lord for Anne Dokko’s report regarding the Senior Pastor Search given at the CBM yesterday (3/14) and prayed specifically for the man God is preparing for the position; and praised the Lord for enabling us to reduce expenditures which in turn reduces our budget.

APPROVE PRIOR ELDER MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the 2/15/2021 and 2/22/2021 EC meetings were approved by acclamation.

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

Bob updated the Church Council on the giving forecast and cash flow. He and his team continue to closely monitor income and expenses. He reported that the most recent projections on giving at fiscal year-end is around \$6,100,000. In addition, the cash flow summary forecast indicates that we may use \$486,000 of the \$500,000 set aside in Trust "T" for the year-end. Finally, Bob reminded us that large fluctuations in the weekly income and expense figures change this data.

NOM COMM REPORT

Mike Curtis reported that the team was off to a great start. They are all aligned in vision. Having met twice, they have divided the tasks. Although time is cut very short, he is confident that this team can do all that is required. The reduction of Commissions by combining some together will allow the remaining deacons/deaconesses to be moved to other Commissions. Each Commission will be notified as to how many positions need to be filled. Recommendations for all positions on the ballot must be received from the congregation by April 16, 2021.

WORSHIP/HIGH SCHOOL/LIFE GROUP DIRECTORS SEARCH UPDATE

Sam Tabari reported that it has been great to have help from Kingdom One in finding someone to fill the position of Worship Director as well as providing an interim worship leader every other week. The team is closely watching the progress of the Senior Pastor Search Committee, because, if we should have a Senior Pastor come on board before we find a Worship Director, they may wait until he is fully established before continuing the search. Right now, the search is slow, because Easter is so close, but should pick up after. They have a couple candidates for the position of High School Director. As a phenomenon of the times, this applicant base is small. No decisions have been made on filling the position of Life Group Director, again, because of how close we are to having a Senior Pastor.

SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH TEAM UPDATE

Rod cited Anne Dokko's report at the CBM yesterday, March 14 – and online. He, too, is very excited about the two candidates and will be having some intensive conversations with them upcoming.

BUDGET UPDATE / ADJUSTMENT DISCUSSION

Pastor Sam began by noting that the staff has been doing a very good job in planning and working toward the \$5.8 million budget. However, while some of the original projections were \$6.8, \$6.2, \$6.0, and \$5.2 million, the Stewardship and F&P Commissions (by vote) lowered the number to \$5.8 million. Sam is proposing that the number be increased to an even \$6 million, because we will soon have a new Senior Pastor who will generate optimism and be worth 'stretching' for. Pastor Sam moved that we amend the total budget for FY 21/22 from \$5.8 to \$6 million. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

REOPENING OF CAMPUS PLAN

Sam Tabari revealed that Easter will be an even bigger day for RHCC, because we will be able to open the sanctuary! Approximately 230 people will be able to attend indoors. Dr. Halverson will lead blended worship indoors and the sermon will be streamed inside from the tent. Many members will be grateful for this addition to our Sunday worship. Along with that, the campus will open to staff, Tuesday Life Groups, CR, kids Sunday school, and Tuesday evening classes plus a few other groups and events.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF FUNDING FOR P.O.O.L. DEFICIT

Rich Tumble, Elder of the Worship Arts Commission, presented a request for Vision funds to cover a P.O.O.L. deficit incurred because the church closed down just one week before POOL 2019 began. He explained that the Pageant has become a ministry that brings in 10,000 people every year to hear the Gospel. While the Pageant has been self-sustaining all these years, this deficit was only due to the Covid shutdown. The \$150K that was paid out in preparation for the 2019 presentations is the amount needed to bring POOL into the 'black' before the 2022 presentations. This deficit is in an 'in-out' account – not part of the budget. As the elders discussed this request, they determined to have F&P explore other avenues of meeting this need, as we have had other similar situations happen over the years with in-out accounts.

CLOSING PRAYER

Vice Chairman Mike DiLustro concluded the meeting in prayer at 9:15 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):

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)