

## EBCLA Quarterly Congregational Meeting

May 1, 2022

Meeting called to order at 12:00 PM (hybrid)

### Opening Prayer – Moderator Mika Walton

### Approval of February 2022 Annual Meeting minutes

- The minutes are approved by consensus with the following two edits.
  - Angie Fong requested edits for the following under the 2020 Surplus Allocation section on Page 2
    - Point 1: We are recommending → The Board is recommending
    - Point 2: We recommend →The Board recommends
    - Point 3: We recommend →The Board recommends
    - Point 4: We are recommending →The Board is recommending
    - Point 5: We are recommending →The Board is recommending
  - Melanie Mar Chow requested an edit to the Financial Report on Page 1
    - Point 2: who have →who gave

### Financial Report – Treasurer Nina Luu

- EBCLA Q1 Financials
  - The main cause for variance between actuals vs. budget is a drop in giving.
  - Giving units have been lower than expected this quarter but this is not abnormal for Q1.

Q1 Actuals	Q1 Budget
Income: \$209,076	Income: \$262,494
Expenses: <u>\$279,695</u>	Expenses: <u>\$307,883</u>
Balance: <b>\$70,619 Unfavorable</b>	Balance: <b>\$45,389 Unfavorable</b>

- EBCLA YTD Financials are the same as Q1

### Senior Pastor Report - Pastor Jason Ashimoto

- We began our annual theme, “Seasons of Love,” where each sermon series is rooted in Scripture and based on a famous pop song. The Lenten series explored enmity and enemies through the song, “Bad Blood,” by Taylor Swift.

- This quarter Evergreen sponsored a “Fishbowl Dialogue” with 2 other churches in Fullerton aimed at bringing an honest conversation about LGBTQ+ inclusion into congregations without taking a defined stance.
- Evergreen hosted Park in the Church this quarter, and we continue to encourage people to come back on-campus for in-person events and worship.
- He apologized that we were not able to do a live-stream for May 1’s Sunday service. We will post the service this week.
- He is planning his three-month sabbatical to begin on June 1 with his spiritual director. He will structure his sabbatical as follows:
  - Rest: Him and his family will be living in Korea for the 1st month
  - Receive: He will be going to Hawaii in advance of his family’s trip there with the goal of receiving from God during this second month.
  - Response: He will be praying for the congregation and visioning for the congregation during this third month. He will also be engaging with other churches and church leaders.
  - During Pastor Jason’s sabbatical, the church will be going through a sermon series that mirrors the journey he will be going on.
- He reiterated how excited he was to see 350+ people come to Evergreen on-campus to worship with us on Easter. It was especially encouraging for him and the rest of the ministry staff.
  - He would like church members to welcome any newcomers and engage with them.
- A note on COVID-19: we had one reported COVID-19 case on Easter Sunday. However, we have not seen it spread. He urges that the congregation continue to wear masks. Our safety protocols seem to be working.

**Pastoral Staff Reports** - Pastors January, Julie, Ryan, and Shirley (Written reports were provided for the congregation to read.)

- January Lim - Worship Arts Pastor
  - She led the “Bad Blood” series during Lent, which helped the congregation explore brokenness within and between ourselves.
    - Pastor January reflects that this is one of her favorite times of the liturgical calendar but one of overwhelming challenge.
    - She is grateful for the participation of the pastors to share about themselves and their personal lives. She was excited to facilitate a time of vulnerability.
    - She also found the Good Friday service to be meaningfully provocative – one that she will remember for a while. If you have questions about the content of these series of services, please direct them to Pastor Jason. They are more than welcomed.

- WATT produced their second Lenten EP, “Tremors” (starting with a Call to Worship and ending with a Benediction).
    - She welcomes the congregation to listen to this year round.
  - She planned an overflowed Easter Service, reminiscent of pre-pandemic days. She hopes that this service would be a reminder of what it means to worship together and to not grow complacent.
  - Their team published motif:SKETCHBOOK.
    - This was a magazine project, which provided a space for Evergreeners to tell their own stories, share their art, and stand witness to God’s activity in their lives.
    - The content was created by our own church members.
    - She hopes that this magazine will be a way to publicize Evergreen and outreach to others.
    - The team printed 200 hard copies and distributed them at April’s Church in the Park.
  - She will continue to plan the year-long series, “Seasons of Love.”
  - She requests prayer for continued inspiration for new artistic forms of worship, growth as a musician, storyteller, and preacher, and over her health and medical conditions.
  - She has continued to attend Jessica Moy’s small group and would like to be involved in building up more small groups that will help to foster community within EBCLA. She also asks for prayer in this regard.
- Ryan Granucci - Youth Pastor
    - Saki and Ryan purchased their first home together and added their dog, goldendoodle Haku, to their family.
    - Youth
      - Their first series of events focused on reflection on work and faith since many students had expressed having a hard time thinking about future majors and careers. They hosted guest speakers from the EBCLA congregation to share about the intersection of work and faith.
      - Their second series of events focused on a general overview of life of Jesus
      - Youth leaders hosted a Youth Retreat this quarter with the theme of “Gathered & Scattered.” They invited guest speaker, Ivan Lam, who spoke about God’s movement of bringing people together and sending us out. They had a tiring but great time with creative games such as a real-life version of Mario Kart.
    - The Open Door
      - They continue to meet twice a month.

- The leadership team is leading a series of devotionals based off of the book, “Queer Virtue” by Reverend Elizabeth Edman.
    - Socials have also been hosted, including one with the TOD Parents’ Group.
- Shirley Lew - Family Life Pastor
  - She will retire from full-time ministry at the end of 2022 but will work as a part-time Pastor to the Prime Timers ministry starting in April 2023. She announced this to the congregation on May 1, 2022.
  - Children’s Ministry
    - Children’s Worship was still meeting on Zoom for the first quarter of 2022. They are slowly coming back with in-person meetings starting in April.
      - They hope to have more older children come more regularly in order to be able to put together VBS in the summer.
    - They are looking for volunteers, especially youth fifth grade and up, to help out with the Children's Ministry.
    - Come fall, they hope to have more of a Sunday school program.
  - Women’s Ministry
    - To celebrate Lunar New Year, they hosted a dumpling making class.
    - Martin Au-Yeung demonstrated how to make Soda Bread for a St. Patrick’s Day program.
    - A Welcome Back Coffee Hour is being planned for May 15 to catch up to see how everyone is doing.
  - Caregiver’s Support Ministry
    - Continues to meet once a month online (second week of the month).
    - This ministry continues to provide an emotional support space for caregivers to share their concerns and resources with one another.
    - They had Snoopy Fong and Wendy Lew Toda as guest speakers to share different ways to de-stress. They also led the group through an exercise of writing a prayer of lament.
- Jonathan Wu - Executive Pastor
  - He has been invited to participate in an ecumenical pastoral cohort hosted by Luther Seminary. The focus is to intuit and imagine the future of the church.
  - He hosted the Sunday morning Adult CLASS in a hybrid format (drawing on inspiration from Packer’s *Knowing God*, followed by discussions of the church’s “Bad Blood” Lenten journey).
  - Small groups and affinity groups continue to meet and allow for meaningful connection. He hopes to see growing interest and participation as the church continues to transition back to in-person.
  - Church in the Park events continue to be very successful.

- The Missional Exec Team regularly communicates with our missional partners.
  - We enjoyed having the Miller family with us this quarter.
  - We look forward to receiving the Chen, Kawamura, and Truong families this summer.
  - We released the title to our church van to Moise and Deliris Carrion-Joseph for ministry use in Tijuana.
- Family Promise SGV has been dormant as they have been searching for a case manager to work closely with prospective guest families.
- We hosted the first Rosemead Churches Food Distribution of 2022 in February and the 16th overall.
  - This has been a great way to engage and serve with the Rosemead community.
  - 350 food boxes were prepared and distributed with an amazing team of 120+ volunteers from various church ministries and school volunteer organizations.
  - There will be one more distribution during the last weekend in June.
- There have been transitions in our financial team, but they are working closely with our auditor to successfully complete our 2021 financial review. They are considering other means and resources to simplify our operations and strengthen our accountability and protocols.
- He started a new class on aging in the context of the church and faith (8:30 AM on Sundays online or on Zoom)
  - If you cannot attend the class, he can circulate his notes.
- Pastor Jonathan recognizes the administrative team, who provides support to our church office and on-campus activities.
- Pastor Julie - Family Care Pastor
  - The Prime Timers Bible study began back in-person this quarter.
  - The Journey is continuing to meet on Zoom.
  - She was able to meet families with new children.
  - She is grateful for her 10-hours per week yet meaningful time as staff at EBCLA.

### **Questions and Answers**

- There were no questions asked at the meeting.

### **Closing Prayer – Mika Walton**

### **Adjournment of the Meeting**

- Mika Walton moved to adjourn the meeting. Steve Kawamura seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Upcoming Events:**

- Church in the Park (May 29)
- Pastor Jason's sabbatical (June 1 – August 31)
- Congregational Meeting (June 5)
- Rosemead Churches Food Distribution (June 25)
- Park in the Church (July 3)
- Family Promise hosting week (July 17-24)

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Submitted by Nathan Chan and Mika Walton