

PRESBYTERY OF SAN JOSE
Minutes of Special Called Meeting
Saturday, July 18, 2020
Meeting Convened in Zoom

The Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of San Jose was called to order at 9:04 am by the Moderator, Elder Frank Bernstein, who offered the opening prayer.

Announcement: The Peace and Justice Work Group will be holding an all-presbytery worship service on Saturday, July 25, at 10 am. Contact Collette Lynner at the Presbytery Office for registration information.

Meeting Instructions:

1. This meeting is being conducted and recorded in Zoom. Today there are no visitors, but the recording will be available.
2. Votes will be taken using the Poll function. If there are two commissioners using the same device, please indicate to Executive Presbyter Joey Lee, Stated Clerk Erica Rader, or Moderator Frank Bernstein. All people present may vote except Collette Lynner, Office Manager and host of the Zoom meeting, and Diane Case, Presbytery Accountant and resource person.
3. Everyone is muted. Please use the Chat function to seek voice and recognition. When speaking in debate, please indicate in the Chat whether you wish to speak in favor or against so that the moderator may call on alternating points of view. During debate, speakers will have one minute to present.
4. If there is a need for a motion and a second, the first two people who raise hands in the Participant's View will be considered the maker and seconder of the motion.
5. After a motion is made, there will be a presentation and opportunity to ask questions before the vote takes place.
6. Please extend grace as we navigate technology and a variety of opinions.

STATED CLERK

The Stated Clerk, the Reverend Erica Rader, welcomed attendees and confirmed the presence of a quorum. more than 8 Ministers, 8 Ruling Elders and 6 churches.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Presbytery APPROVED the agenda.

Committee Chairs/Council Present

Frank Bernstein, Moderator	Jane Odell, Safe Church
Carol Holsinger, Polity & Government	Carolyn Rosen, Synod
James Lee, At Large	Rosaleen Zisch, Presbyterian Women

Teaching Elders Present

Althaus, Ryan	Kim, Hardy	Peake, Mark
Arishvara, Vincent	Kim, Taelor	Peterson-Iyer, Karen
Bales, Jennifer	Kress, Karla	Rader, Erica
Barraca, Jason	Lane, Bill	Rausch, Andy
Bennett, James	LeClaire, Sharon	Reyes-Chow, Bruce
Boles, Margaret	Lee, Fred	Thorson, Martha
Boyer, Tim	Lee, Joey	Van Laar, Trevor
Choi, Don	Logan, Molly	Vilardo, Larry
Evans, Samantha	Macway, Evie	Watermulder, David
Franzen, Bryan	Matusiewicz, Stella	Wong, Andy
Gibson, Diana	McAnelly, Anne	Wong, Lindsay Woods
Hahn, Tae Jinn	Minerva, George	Yoon, I Sil
Hejmanowski, Karin	Norman, Steve	
Hoffman, Dan	Olson, Robby	

Teaching Elders, Honorably Retired, Present

Bartow, Jay	Breeden, Edd	McCreath, David
Boatwright, Libby	Kelso, Paula	Momrow, Ed
Bowles, Bob	Knowles, Steve	Palmer, Marge
Bracey, Dale	Longley, Jack	Swanson, Nan

Teaching Elders Not Present

Allen, Stephanie Lutz	Garner, Mike	Roberts, Craig
Baker, Debra	Granado, Sim	Sohn, Joseph
Barclay, Annanda	Hansen, Chris	Su, Ralph
Browning, Geoff	Hanson, Duncan	Swanson, Erik
Burke, John	Kuo, Ruth	Tirone, Jim
Crocker, Douglas	Lai, Hsien-Chang	Tsai, Andrew
Day, Kevin	Lee, Irene Pak	Williams, Chris
Drescher, Kent	Pearson, Marjorie	Woodsmall, Dennis
Esaki, Ted	Person, Brian	
Eschen-Pipes, Kathleen	Purkey, Lee	

Teaching Elders, Honorably Retired, Not Present

Ah, Dong Sung	Bristol, John	Doyal, George
Bland, Byron	Choi, Samuel	Erickson, George
Bender, Jim	Dosker, Richard	Gardener, Thomas

Hansen, David
 Hare, Sharon
 Harrington, Nancy
 Harvey, Bill
 Hsieh, Stephen
 Ignacio, Lemuel
 Joy, Judy
 Kim, David Kwang
 Kim, Insik
 Kim, Kyung Jae
 Kim, Young Han

Koopman, Peter
 Kwon, Young Bai
 Kwon, Young K
 Lewis, Charles
 Lyke, Brian
 Menser, Bruce
 Nelson, Jim
 Newcomer, Ben
 Rowlison, Bruce
 Schell, Nancy
 Schmidt, Lyle

Smith, Kent
 Solis, Dick
 Spencer, Dick
 Takarabe, Hei
 Tan, Tiat-Han
 Tyler, Lee
 Venecia, Fred
 Vilardo, Larry
 Wilson, George
 Yeane, Darrell
 Zuverink, Dave

Elder Commissioners Present

Aptos, St. Andrew
 Billheimer, Myles
 Burk, Gene
 Finchum, Carol

Gilroy
 Martin, Denise
 Viale, Lynn

Gonzales, Community
 Rutledge, Kay

Los Gatos
 Baker, Mark
 Barry, Beth
 Caselli, Gene
 Heacock, Dave
 Meadows, Bill
 Willis, Martha

Monterey, El Estero
 Wong, Dick

Monterey, First
 Barrett, Jeff
 Dickson, Dorothy
 Stone, Rebecca

Mountain View, First
 Edmundson, Bruce

Palo Alto, Covenant
 Herrel, George
 Marshburn, Jane
 Mickelson, Hal
 Reynolds, Lizanne

Palo Alto, First
 Brenneman, Scott

Hughes, Evan
 Jones, Paul
 Noble, Lela
 Wong, Evelyn

Salinas, Lincoln Avenue
 Miranda, Joachin

Salinas, Northminster
 Crompton, Thomas

Salinas, St. Phillips
 (none)

San Jose, Cornerstone
 (none)

San Jose, Evergreen
 Wolfe, Pat

San Jose, Foothill
 Moore, Woody
 Rowser, Sharon
 Wu, Xiwei

San Jose, Santa Teresa Hills
 Elliott, Paul

San Jose, Stone
 Barret, Neale
 Goertz, Mel
 Lakatos, Rhonda
 McCreath, Ruth
 Thorn, Alice

San Jose, Taiwanese American
 Sern, Pei
 Wu, Steve

San Jose, Trinity
 Briggs, Gail
 Sullivan, Patrick

San Jose, Westminster
 Burgess, David
 Notor, Nan
 Salazar, Claudia

San Martin
 (none)

Santa Clara, First
 (none)

Santa Cruz, Bonny Doon
 (none)

Santa Cruz, Trinity
 Cobery, Chuck
 Duffus, Emily
 May, Charlie

Saratoga, Westhope
 (none)

Sunnyvale
 Beggs, Judy
 Bentley, David
 Morley, David
 Shaver, Jim
 Vickrey, Barry

Sunnyvale, Daesung
 Min, Eric
 Jung, Taehyung

Watsonville, Westview
 Rogers, Barbara

Additional Presbytery Staff

Diane Case, Accountant

Collette Lynner, Office Manag

REPORT FROM SAN JOSE FIRST COMMISSION

The Reverend Jenni Bales reported on the San Jose First Commission, highlighting information from the written report included at the end of these minutes as Attachment A which is 2 pages long.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS - Trinity Santa Cruz Manse and Urban Ministry Cottage Update

Elder Sharon Rowser reported on the work of the Financial Affairs Committee regarding the Trinity Santa Cruz Manse and Urban Ministry Cottage. The written report is included at the end of these minutes as Appendix B which is 2 pages long.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS – Watsonville Public House

Elder Sharon Rowser, Elder Charlie May, and the Reverend Robby Olson reported on the work of the Financial Affairs Committee regarding the Watsonville Public House. Information is provided in the written report included at the end of these minutes in Appendix C which is seven pages long.

The Presbytery VOTED to confirm the purchase of property for \$1.2 million and \$1.85 million renovation budget for a commercial property in the center of downtown Watsonville that will be owned by the Presbytery and leased to Watsonville Public House and a \$700,000 loan from the Presbytery to Watsonville Public House with a 10-year payment for brewing equipment and startup costs.

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL

The Presbytery APPROVED one amendment and the following motion as amended. (Text to be added is *italicized*).

Motion: Refer a request to Council to consult with its Polity and Government Sub-Committee to consider the question of whether amendments to the Standing Rules should be addressed to establish investment and/or expenditure amounts requiring Presbytery approval, and authority and standing of requestors. The Council will provide updates in Stated Meetings until they have completed this work. *Any purchase of real property must be approved by Presbytery.*

ADJOURNMENT

After sharing of prayer concerns, the meeting was adjourned at 12:28 pm with prayer by the Moderator, Elder Frank Bernstein.

Next Meetings: September 19, 2020
 November 21, 2020

Appendix A

To: The Presbytery of San José

Re: **San José Urban Ministry Center**

Dear Friends,

We are writing to you as the Co-chairs of the Administrative Commission,¹ a commission responsible for reinvesting the property assets associated with the former First Presbyterian Church of San José (“First Church”). We wanted to provide you with an update of our current status as there have been some exciting developments! Primarily, the Bill Wilson Center has signed a letter of intent for a long-term partnership and tenancy relationship with Westminster Presbyterian Church. They will be occupying the buildings to be renovated on Westminster’s property; a renovation to be funded by the assets of the First Church property sale. The Bill Wilson Center provides services for homeless and underhoused youth and families, including mental health services. Their website is <https://www.billwilsoncenter.org> if you would like more information on their organization.

For easy reference, the parameters of the Commission’s work originate with the Book of Order. Section G-3.0109 says, “A commission is empowered to consider and conclude matters referred to it by a council. The designating council shall state specifically the scope of the commission’s powers and any restrictions on those powers.” The scope of this Commission’s authority comes from the Motion put forth by First Church, which was approved by the Presbytery Council in March 2019, and referred to the wider Presbytery for a vote (which passed) at the April 6th Presbytery meeting. The Motion is as follows:

The Congregation of First Presbyterian Church of San José requests that the Presbytery appoint a Commission to establish plans for the usage of First Presbyterian Church of San José’s real property at 49 N 4th Street, or reinvestment of proceeds from sale of that real property for the purpose of establishing a base for ongoing urban ministry that continues the legacy of First Presbyterian Church of San José.

The Commission’s last update to the wider Presbytery was during the November 2019 meeting at Stone Church. Bryan Franzen, Jenni Bales, and Carolyn Rosen presented the partnership that had developed between the Commission (on behalf of the Presbytery) and Westminster to use assets from the sale of First Church to renovate the education building and chapel on Westminster’s premises. The Commission felt that this partnership was an important step in fulfilling our assigned task. Investing in Westminster’s property would

¹ The Commission members are Rev. Dr. Jenni Bales (Co-Chair), Elder Carolyn Rosen (Co-Chair), Rev. Don Choi, Elder Steve Nelson, and Elder Sharon Rowser.

1) continue First Church's legacy as Westminster was originally a church plant of First Church, 2) this investment would enhance Westminster's current urban ministry, 3) investing in Westminster in this way would

help fortify the presence of our last remaining congregation in downtown San José, and 4) Westminster is in a strategic location for urban ministry given the upcoming development that's planned for downtown San José.

Since last fall, the Administrative Commission has come to an agreement with Westminster regarding the management of the new Urban Ministry Center, hired an architect, started the permit process with the City of San José, and are currently interviewing design-build contractors. Steve Nelson, a member of the Commission and residential architect will serve as the project manager during the upcoming renovation. We are hoping to break ground at the end of this year.

Westminster's agreement with the Bill Wilson Center means fostering a relationship with a non-profit agency known in the community for providing a wide array of high quality services for homeless and underhoused youth and families, including housing, training, mental health, and more. Leasing the newly renovated buildings at a below-market rate on Westminster's campus would allow them to expand their services to reach families in crisis and also focus on local homeless college students. They are delighted to be in such close proximity to one of our churches and are excited about partnering with both Westminster and the Presbytery of San José in providing volunteer opportunities, examples being tutoring or teaching life skills.

This is a project the Presbytery of San José can be proud of as Westminster and the Bill Wilson Center help provide transformational services to our neighbors who are struggling in our downtown San José neighborhood. We look forward to seeing this mission of Westminster and the Presbytery develop in new and exciting ways!

On behalf of the Downtown Administrative Commission,

Jennifer Bales, Co-Chair

Carolyn Rosen, Co-Chair

Appendix B**Report from Financial Affairs on status of the purchase of Santa Cruz manse and establishment of Urban Ministry Cottage.**

The attached request from Trinity Santa Cruz was approved by Financial Affairs Committee in December 2019.

The Committee action was reported to the Presbytery in the docket of the February 1, 2020 meeting with the following summary:

“Committee approved the purchase of a manse with Trinity Santa Cruz. The manse will be used by Trinity’s pastor and will be maintained by Trinity and Presbytery will hold the title on the property. The funding will come from a combination of sources: \$200,000 from Trinity, \$414,000 from Vintage Faith dismissal funds, and up to \$400,000 from Presbytery. As additional consideration, Trinity will also provide their cottage for the exclusive use of Presbytery’s Sweaty Sheep urban ministry. Currently it is rented to a third party for rental income.”

At the February Presbytery meeting, a Commissioner requested that the report be raised for discussion and it was clarified that the intended property would be solely held in the name of the Presbytery. No additional actions were moved and the meeting proceeded.

After a six month search for a suitable property in the neighborhood surrounding the church, a house was purchased for \$953,000, closing on July 2, 2020.

Trinity gave their month-to-month tenant several months notice to move from the cottage, but they have not moved out, as the process has been slowed down by Covid-19 restrictions. Trinity and Presbytery staff will work out an understanding about the short and long range use of the cottage as an Urban Ministry center in consultation with Financial Affairs and other stakeholders. It is not yet determined the precise usage for the cottage as it may serve a blended use as both residence and/or ministry space.

Trinity’s Session has called a congregational meeting on Sunday July 19th to approve the call for a new full time pastor. The timely closing of the property has allowed them to include this specific housing in the proposed terms of call.

Trinity Presbyterian Church of Santa Cruz Proposal to Financial Affairs- December 2019

Trinity Presbyterian of Santa Cruz is an active and vibrant church of the San Jose Presbytery, serving Santa Cruz and neighboring communities, participating fully in connectional ministry and missional giving through the Presbytery.

Trinity Presbyterian has been in a three-quarter time pastor arrangement for the past 11 years. The main issue precluding employment of a pastor full time has been the high cost of housing in Santa Cruz. We believe we can purchase a suitable house (three bedroom - two bath) in the surrounding neighborhood for an amount between \$800,000 and \$1,000,000.

Trinity is in the search process for a new pastor. The largest impediment to this effort has been finding the way to meet the pastor's housing requirements in the Santa Cruz area. Trinity owns a two bedroom cottage on the church property, adjacent to the Safeway grocery parking lot. This cottage is currently rented for \$28,800 per year. Due to its small configuration and proximity to noisy activities, day and night, we don't believe it to be an adequate residence for Trinity's pastor and his/her family.

The Presbytery will be taking receipt of the \$414,000 as a final settlement due from Vintage Faith Church gracious dismissal agreement.

Trinity Presbyterian is witness to, and wishes to support, the Presbytery's urban ministry currently being conducted by Rev. Ryan Althaus. Ryan's ministry is making a positive impact to the lives of Santa Cruz's marginalized and those experiencing homelessness. Ryan does not live in conventional housing, nor does he have a sheltered location for ministry. We believe that this urban ministry is vital and in consideration for the Presbytery's assistance in purchasing the new manse, Trinity is proposing to assign the cottage for housing support of the Presbytery's ongoing urban ministry in Santa Cruz.

Trinity has approximately \$200,000 in savings designated for the purchase of a conventional house for our pastor within Trinity's neighborhood. Trinity requests the Vintage Faith dismissal monies be designated toward the purchase of this house, providing new ministry growth opportunities for Trinity and the Presbytery. Additionally, Trinity requests that Presbytery provide the remaining funds required to purchase the house.

There are many positive synergies to this proposal, apparent ones include:

1. Trinity will continue to be a strong and viable Presbyterian presence in Santa Cruz, with a full time pastor. We believe it will strengthen the effort of sharing and spreading Christ's ministry in Santa Cruz, and within the San Jose Presbytery.
2. Trinity will support and collaborate with the Presbytery's urban ministry currently conducted by Rev. Althaus.
3. It is advantageous to use the cottage for ministry a (relatively) small investment from the Presbytery versus leasing or attempting to sell it to offset the cost of the manse.
4. The concept of a "neighborhood pastor" will be realized by having both Trinity's pastor as well as Rev. Althaus providing ministry in Trinity's neighborhood and city.

The Session of Trinity Presbyterian makes this request after considerable thought, prayer, and in humility

Appendix C

Financial Affairs Committee Investment in Property and Loan for Watsonville Public House – June 2020

From the earliest days of the church, we have been called to go to where people are, build community, and engage in the exchange of ideas as Christ's ambassadors. In that spirit, our denomination developed and grew by helping new congregations purchase land and build churches that acted as houses of worship and community gathering points in the city center. As a continuation of this enduring call, the Rev. Robby Olson, a minister member of The Presbytery of San Jose has formed Watsonville Public House: A Nonprofit Community Brewery (WPH), that will host Beer Church Watsonville (BCW), an established PC(USA) 1001 New Worshipping Community.

Breweries are a contemporary gathering point, building community and encouraging the exchange of ideas. WPH will be a fully functioning brewery with a tap room, serving excellent craft beer to the people of Watsonville and the surrounding region and providing a venue space to support local non-profit partners. Rev. Olson, an accomplished home brewer who is poised to make the transition to professional brewing, will be WPH's executive director and head brewer. In post-Christendom, there is a significant segment of the population who are uninterested or unwilling to come to a traditional church. A brewery, on the other hand, is a nonthreatening environment to those who identify as "nones" or spiritual but not religious (SBNR). Rev. Olson has discovered a passion and calling to minister to nones and SBNRs. His exploration of that call through Beer Church Watsonville has opened doors and begun building a community of spiritual engagement. WPH widens the successful ministry of Beer Church Watsonville into a large, public gathering place in the heart of Watsonville.

Rev. Robby Olson presented a ministry plan and request to the Financial Affairs Committee of the Presbytery in December 2019 and together we embarked on analysis and consideration of the feasibility with him. After six months reviewing various options, the Financial Affairs Committee of the Presbytery approved the \$1.2 million purchase and \$1.85 million renovation budget for a commercial property in the center of downtown Watsonville that will be owned by the Presbytery and leased to Watsonville Public House. The Presbytery is under contract for this property with an anticipated closing in July. Watsonville Public House will be receiving a \$700,000 loan from the Presbytery with a 10-year payment for brewing equipment and startup costs. Together with loan repayment, WPH intends to tithe profits to the Presbytery, anticipating that a per capita model doesn't fit this ministry model.

Rev. Olson has been employed by the Presbytery as an evangelist/chaplain at large to the Watsonville community since February 2020, funded by a two year grant provided by the United Presbyterian Church of Watsonville prior to their dissolution in January 2020. Committee on Ministry approved this grant based contract, which was offered in lieu of severance and in recognition of Rev. Olson's ongoing call to serve Watsonville. We are grateful to the Session of UPC Watsonville for making this decision regarding the grant for Rev. Olson. It is important to note that the investment and loan has been made from the Presbytery's investment funds and not the assets from the dissolution of UPC Watsonville. An Administrative Commission is currently discerning the use of those assets. Our prayer is that the outcome of that Administrative Commission honoring the legacy of UPC Watsonville, the new Watsonville Public House, and the

faithful congregation of Westview Presbyterian Church are all used by God to serve the community of Watsonville for many generations to come.

Watsonville Public House has filed for incorporation and will be a non-profit formed for the purposes of furthering the mission of the Presbytery of San Jose. Legal work for the formation of Watsonville Public House has been donated to the Presbytery by a premier business tax attorney. Rev. Olson will be the executive director and a board will be formed with a majority of seats held by members of the Presbytery or its churches.

We are sharing this information with the Presbytery because this is a new and exciting ministry for us and a significant investment. Please join us in praying for success of this new ministry as it develops, and that God will do amazing things through us as we engage in the community in a new way in Watsonville. We have attached a summary of the vision and ministry plan that was presented to Financial Affairs Committee by Rev. Olson.

Sharon Rowser

Chair of Financial Affairs Committee

Watsonville Public House:
A Nonprofit Community Brewery
Good Beer. Good Community. Do Good.

Vision for Ministry

“Seek the Peace and Prosperity of the City”

In 1860, eight years before the incorporation of Watsonville, First Presbyterian Church (later United Presbyterian Church) was planted and a sanctuary was constructed one block east of the downtown plaza. Presbyterians in Watsonville have a rich history of and commitment to providing hospitality in the city center and building community by welcoming all into the family of God’s beloved children. Hospitality is sharing what we’ve been given, including the ability to create and maintain space for blessing. This is what presbyteries do and it has served them well. While real estate and improved buildings offer potential investment returns, Presbyterians invest in space and use it to serve the Kingdom of God. Today, traditional churches find themselves on the margins of our culture; as a people who believe the gospel of Jesus to still be relevant and critical, the time is right to explore new and creative opportunities to bring that message into the city center.

The majority of people in our communities do not attend church on Sunday mornings; some have left the church, many have simply never been affiliated with any religion. A significant and growing portion of the population identify as a “none,” when asked about religious affiliation, or as spiritual but not religious (SBNR); these people are beyond the reach of most traditional church-based ministries. While the religious affiliation is lost, the hunger for community, connection, and meaning is alive and well. One of the venues filling this void is craft breweries. Brewery taprooms function, in many ways, in a church-like role—a central gathering point of a community. Locals regularly gather, often coming alone with the expectation of encountering their friends and acquaintances (old and new), sharing deeply with their friends and beer-tenders, and upon departing, feeling seen, heard, and cared for. Brewery communities regularly come together to support each other in times of need, whether fundraising for hospital bills or in consolation after the loss of a loved one. *Beer Church Watsonville (BCW) is a ministry response to this reality.* Rather than surrender the loss of a large percentage of the population, BCW recognizes the natural community building within a brewery and seeks to infuse it with ministry, to invite people into deeper conversations, and to help people discover and give language to their spiritual experience. Giving language to spiritual discovery is a preliminary step to discovering Christ, whether in a traditional church or not.

Beer Church Watsonville

Through BCW, Rev. Olson is working to establish a new ministry around an old idea: building community and engaging in ministry in the city center. Beer Church Watsonville, in its current iteration, is ready to transition from informal gatherings in a small living room to a more structured, more intentional outreach to a much broader range of people. From before its days as a 1001 New Worshipping Community, BCW has been a community building opportunity that has presented Rev. Olson with a wide array of ministry opportunities from spiritual conversations, to officiating weddings, to pastoral hospital visitations. While sitting in Rev. Olson’s living room, tasting his latest home brew at BCW, people will frequently say something like, “Hey Robby, you’re a pastor; I’ve always wanted to ask...” All of a sudden, pastoral opportunities to share faith, theology, ecclesiology, etc. are dropped in the lap of a pastor unlike anything he’s see in a sanctuary or fellowship hall.

BCW has been actively building a brand in Watsonville and the surrounding region. Among the legal uses of home brew in California is in-kind donations to nonprofit fundraisers. Since 2015, BCW has been brewing beer for local nonprofit fundraisers. The benefit has been myriad. Among the gains, significant good will has been built along a wide cross-section of the community as BCW is now recognized and associated with the nonprofits that community members already support. Not only that, a wide-ranging population has tried our beer and has been impressed. The expectation is that BCW brews beer people want to drink and supports nonprofits they want to support. While BCW began as both the name of the brewing arm and of the ministry arm, there are three reasons it is necessary for the brewing arm of the ministry to change its name. First, *Beer Church* is a copyrighted brewery name in Michigan. Second, in a city with a large Spanish-speaking population, one must be careful with names that may not translate well across languages and cultures. Finally, the new brewery name, Watsonville Public House, will not be confusing to the average patron who is seeking a pint of beer and not yet looking for spiritual engagement.

Watsonville Public House

Watsonville Public House (WPH), a new 501c3 brewery, will have a majority Presbyterian board of directors, making it eligible to be insured by the Insurance board, like Emmanuel House. WPH will be a fully functional brewery, brewing and serving craft beer to the people of Watsonville and the surrounding region. Rev. Olson is an accomplished homebrewer who is poised to make the transition to professional brewer without forsaking his call to ministry in the Kingdom of God, within the PC(USA). The nonprofit business of WPH will serve as both a tentmaking opportunity for Rev. Olson as well as a gateway to minister to a significant portion of our community who are unwilling and uninterested in entering, much less entering into membership in a traditional church.

WPH will provide a gathering place of welcome for anyone who walks in the door—no religious strings attached. BCW, a separate ministry entity, will create voluntary gateways for ministry—table discussions, book groups, speakers—as well as building toward a weekly worshipping community. While the exact structure of that worship will develop with the community, Rev. Olson envisions conversational teaching/discussion, prayer and meditation, and music, all surrounding a potluck meal and communion.

Why a brewery?

The Apostle Paul made great tents. While we have no Yelp reviews of Paul's wares, we do know well his passion for excellence in ministry and his call to work as if unto the Lord (Col. 3:23). Paul would not stand for making Jesus a shabby tent. Rev. Olson has a gift and a passion for brewing excellent beer and a track record of using that beer to build community and foster spiritual friendships. While a brewery is an excellent vehicle to attract people and support a ministry, it is not a magic bullet. BCW is not about beer; it is about using the unique gifts and skills of the pastoral leadership, already established in Watsonville, to invite people into an intentional community, moving towards spiritual discovery and growth.

Rev. Olson recognizes the potential dangers associated with alcohol. Beyond complying with all laws and ABC regulations, WPH is committed to helping people make good decisions—whether that is to drink responsibly or not to drink at all. Making good on this commitment begins with excellent staff who endorse this vision and feel ownership of the brewery mission. All beer-tenders will be LEAD trained and our policy will be conservative in cutting people off for the night. While over imbibing does take place in breweries, the culture of brewpubs is much different than that of a dive bar. Craft beer is not enjoyed by guzzling, but rather by tasting and savoring. In the inevitable case that a patron is inebriated, our role in helping people make good decisions shifts to helping them get home safely by calling a ride.

Breweries are natural gathering spaces, fostering community, conversation, and allowing people to let their guard down. Within their brewery, brewers are a sought-after conversation partner. The opportunity to engage people as the “Brew Pastor” greatly reduces that walls that go up when new acquaintances find out they are speaking with a pastor (“Are you a *pastor* pastor? At a church?” Followed by skepticism, condescension, or an explanation of why they don’t go to church).

With extensive home brewing experience, as well as professional and academic training, Rev. Olson is ready to meet the technical challenge of professional brewing. He was the only home brewer invited to serve his beer at Santa Cruz County’s SF Beer Week 2019 event (31 pro breweries, cideries, and Rev. Olson), featured in the Watsonville Wine, Beer & Art walk 2018 and 2019, trained and certified at the accredited U.C. Davis professional brewing program (in which the renown Prof. Charlie Bamforth described one of his beers as “a well-balanced, damn-fine beer;” of another he said, “I wouldn’t change a thing!”), mentored through one-on-one shadowing with the head-brewer at Seattle’s Rooftop Brewing Co., and participated in three collaboration-brews with Elkhorn Slough Brewing Co. In preparing for the business side of a brewery, Rev. Olson has completed University of Vermont Business School’s certification classes in Craft Brewery Operations and Management, as well as Craft Brewery Finance and Accounting. While he recognizes the need for outside help and business expertise, these courses have prepared Rev. Olson with the knowledge an know how to avoid many common pitfalls into which brewery startups fall, and to be better prepared to respond to unforeseen challenges.

Why now? Why Rev. Olson?

BCW began organically when Rev. Olson recognized that the vast majority of his community would not even consider attending worship services at his congregation, The United Presbyterian Church of Watsonville. While the congregation was friendly, with good music and preaching, most people who have left the churches of their youth, or never attended church, are not interested in finding a new “church home.” Rev. Olson found the spark for BCW when he began to use his avocation, home brewing top-notch beer, to serve his passion and gift for engaging nones, SBNRs, and post-church-going people. As might be expected in an 85% Latinx town, many people who have left the church of their youth have some degree of cultural Catholicism—possessing a little knowledge without a defined practice, theology, or ecclesiology. What’s more, Rev. Olson discovered that there was no need for or temptation toward any sort of bait and switch, people voluntarily came to Beer Church gatherings and, because genuine community was fostered, people wanted to engage Rev. Olson *because* he is an ordained pastor, not in spite of it. BCW began to grow and run into two significant problems, there is simply a space limitation in Rev. Olson’s small living room and there is a limit when considering who is invited into one’s home. BCW is ready to make the leap from the living room to a larger public venue that keeps the integrity of both Beer Church and the distinctly non-church-y location.

Why Watsonville?

Rev. Olson and his wife, Jenni Veitch-Olson, are called to and deeply connected in Watsonville, having spent years laying the groundwork for a successful outreach ministry. It is deeply difficult to break into communities as a spiritual leader if the community is not an established congregation. But, with deep community ties, comes trust from community members and opportunities to engage. Rev. Olson, beyond being pastor at Watsonville United, is a Watsonville Police Department Chaplain; a Watsonville High School boys basketball coach; was on the committee to hire the current Police Chief; was on the committee to update Watsonville's alcohol ordinance; is among the team of executive directors steering the twice yearly Watsonville leadership conference, *Live Pajaro Valley*; and has been identified as "The Pastor of Watsonville" by city staff and council members who have invited him to lead several prayer vigils like the one at the Strawberry Festival after the Gilroy Garlic Festival shooting. Veitch-Olson is the chair of Watsonville's Planning Commission, a recent candidate for city council, organizer of demonstrations against violations of immigrants' rights, as well as women's rights, and she is Planned Parenthood Mar Monte's Major Gifts Officer for Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties, based in Watsonville.

How will WPH & BCW be connectional in the presbytery?

Presbyterians are Rev. Olson's people (even the ones who don't like beer). For this reason, he is excited to stay connected to the Presbytery of San Jose and to elevate the priority of the ministry of BCW in his efforts to establish a brewery and center for ministry in downtown Watsonville. In working with the PSJ, WPH will be a nonprofit, requiring a board of directors to work with Rev. Olson as Executive Director. This board will be made up of a majority of Presbyterians, with the remaining members being Watsonville community members.

It is unlikely that BCW will incorporate as a congregation with traditional membership, thus per capita is not likely to be a part of the future of BCW. One alternative that Rev. Olson is especially fond of is WPH tithing to the Presbytery out of its profits. While it is not required that 1001 New Worshipping Communities or NCDs offer this sort of financial participation in the presbytery, this tent-making brewery will have the means to demonstrate its commitment to the presbytery and the mission of God in and through the presbytery via this financial partnership.

Finally, it is in the DNA of the PSJ to seek partnership in new ventures—often seeking at least three. This three-legged stool begins with Rev. Olson's vision, passion, and sweat equity to establish himself in the community of Watsonville, locate funding sources for WPH's brewing equipment, and to see this ministry and tent-making venture through to reality. Second, in its twilight months, Watsonville United's session has stepped up to reaffirm and support Rev. Olson's calling to minister in Watsonville, a call they recognized just over seven years ago; their provision of two years of Rev. Olson's terms of call gives WPH and BCW the time needed to get up and running. The third leg is the Presbytery, using a portion of investment to seed new ministry; the PSJ has the opportunity to step into the historical role of presbyteries buying land and building centers for hospitality and worship.

The time is right to join together to explore the new thing that God is doing in Watsonville and in the PSJ.

**Watsonville Public House:
A Nonprofit Community Brewery**
Good Beer. Good Community. Do Good.

Timeline:

- November 2019
Watsonville. COM approved Rev. Olson’s position, funded by grant from UPC
- December 2019 Rev. Olson provided a ministry vision to Financial Affairs.
- January 2020 Financial Affairs reviewed a historic property for purchase that was subsequently rejected for feasibility issues.
- February 2020 Rev. Olson began COM approved position as “Evangelist/Chaplain to Watsonville” and he sought advice from real estate broker and local design/ build contractor for market analysis and planning.
- April 2020 Watsonville Public House filed incorporation paperwork.
Rev. Olson developed updated financial forecasts and plans.
- May 2020 Rev. Olson identified a property in Watsonville and sought Financial Affairs approval for property acquisition and renovation. Financial Affairs approved negotiations for property and approved a \$700,000 loan for equipment.
- June 2020 Financial Affairs approved purchase of property for \$1.2 million (under contract June 3 with closing expected in July) and approved proceeding with a design/build firm in Santa Cruz county.
- July 2020 Anticipated close on the property and development of renovation plan.
- Spring 2021 Anticipated opening