

GPC Governing Board
Meeting Minutes
May 23, 2023

Zoom conference call: Rev. Dr. Douglas Cederberg, Dennis Christo, Robert Converse, Karen Allen, Dennis O'Malley, David Raphael, Kim Paré

This Zoom conference meeting commenced at 6:32 p.m.

Dave opened the meeting with a prayer of gratitude for the Governing Board's service to the congregation and those dealing with medical challenges. Amen.

VOTE: The GB meeting minutes from 3/28/23 had been previously distributed and reviewed. Dave moved to accept the minutes as written. Bob seconded. Unanimously approved. No opposition and no abstentions.

Pastor's update:

Doug has consecutively been in the pulpit since Thanksgiving. He'll be on vacation June 5-12. Dennis O. will fill in on June 11th in the chapel.

There was a nice Maundy Thursday service in the chapel. There was nearly 90 people in the sanctuary for the Easter service.

Both Charlie Whittall's and Raymond LeBlanc's funerals went well.

Doug recently attended a Ministerial Meeting in Connecticut to maintain his credentials.

This quarter, Doug visited several members in the hospital and nursing homes.

Finance update:

Bob thanked Charlie Whittall for his two years of service as the treasurer and on the Finance Team. Bob worked with Karen and Carolina Mata to work out the payroll challenges. It was a new process for us. The checking account balance is \$35,000. The investments haven't changed since year end. Income as of April 30 is \$24,000 above budget. Congregation giving has been strong this year and was \$4,000 above budget. Hunger Action is \$1600 over budget mainly due to over \$1,000 donated to the Breakfast Program. Many of the donations were in memory of Charlie Whittall.

Expenses as of April 30 was \$11,000 above budget. Snow removal was \$1300 due to a late snowstorm. Computer support was \$1500 over budget due to unbudgeted expenses to the Installation of the new electronic sign. Building repairs were \$1600 over budget due to the repairs to fix the water main break caused by a flood. This was offset by \$9,000 received from the Insurance company as a result of our claim. The annual premium for our building insurance was 14% above the prior year due to increased building costs.

Karen shared a stewardship pledge report. For the annual giving goal of \$125k, we've received about \$52k or 42%. And for the 125th celebration that is ending in October, a letter is being drafted for the summer for those who've pledged, those who are short of their committed goal, and encouraging those who haven't contributed yet.

Dennis C. has not forgotten about writing the Ritacco Brothers letter.

Selah update: Nancy had sent an email regarding meeting the opening requirements for the Y to take over. The Y tested the water and is ready for occupancy once the local board of health does their inspection. The phone and Wi-Fi had been transferred to the Y. Dennis signed the contract they Y had already signed.

A woman named Lisa did quite a bit of work, planting and cleaning up the garden room and hasn't set us a bill yet. Dennis sent her a thank you note. She's been asked to present an estimate to clean up the grounds on the Francis/Leeds' Streets corner in the front of the church.

New Business:

Dennis has been advertising to volunteer for the treasurer position.

VOTE: Dave made a motion to appoint Bob from assistant treasurer to treasurer to complete Charlie Whittall's term. There was discussion about Bob's desire to be in that position and the length of time for this service. Karen Allen seconded the motion. No additional discussion. Unanimously approved. No opposition and no abstentions.

There was a discussion about external options to manage the finances if we cannot find an internal candidate for next year. Bob will call Toby for suggestions.

If anyone is interested in using Selah, they must contact the Y directly. The fees are quite high compared to what GPC used to charge. There was a discussion about whether the Y will winterize Selah. Eventually the property will be for sale and the Y will be the optimal user. The Reservation Trust is no longer interested.

Indian Lake Church rental request for the chapel or Fisher Hall on Saturdays from 6-9 p.m. for 60 people. They sold their building so they're looking for a venue for their evening service. There was a discussion about their needs. The GB agreed to allow the church to use the chapel for two free Saturdays then discuss rental fees. Doug will call Pastor Lee Dematos tomorrow to let him know.

Dennis O. made a motion to adjourn. Dave seconded. Unanimous agreement. The meeting ended at 7:35 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Governing Board meeting is scheduled for hybrid & in-person & Zoom meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Paré, Clerk