

GPC Governing Board
Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2021

Via Zoom conference call: Rev. Dr. Douglas Cederberg, Dennis Christo, Robert Converse, Kim Paré, David Raphael, Charles Whittall, Richard Grayson

This Zoom conference meeting commenced at 7:02 p.m.

Dick offered a prayer for this day, asking for God's direction for the future of our church and blessings for all our families. Amen.

VOTE: The GB interim meeting minutes from 2/23/21 had been previously distributed and reviewed. Dave asked that a correction be made on page 2 noting "whether the ICCC credentialing for Doug would be the same as the UCC." Dennis moved to approve the minutes as presented. Bob seconded. Unanimously approved. No opposition and no abstentions.

Treasurer's report: Charlie sent out the Treasurer's report this afternoon. There's an \$8,442. deficit. We've received over \$3k in income over the last few weeks. Food Hub has not paid last month's rent. That's \$1,800. and now he'll also owe for March. Dick asked if an additional Treasurer's report for January had been sent out. Charlie said he hadn't sent one for January because we hadn't had an approved budget yet.

Dave asked if the Grey Group contacted him. Charlie has not heard from them. He will call and set up a time to chat.

Bob will share the information he had to share about Stewardship from Karen Allen for the next regular GB meeting.

Dennis said the initial Food Pantry report was not accurate due to the formula Joyce Smith was using. The totals on the chart below are correct. Kim said Joyce felt the low numbers are due to the drastically cold weather in January and February. The regulars are mostly on disability and walk to GPC for their pickup. A large donation came in from 365. It's too much to store in the food pantry and is currently located in the classroom.

Greendale Peoples Church Food Pantry 2021

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Totals	
January	4/8	5/20	3/7	3/7		15/42	
February	1/6	2/7	3/9	5/15		11/37	

Dennis reached out to Attorney Kevin Larson in Holden. He hasn't returned Dennis' phone calls. The lawsuit about the Selah property is still pending. The attorney will need to review the documentation. According to the papers, it does belong to GPC.

Dennis made the voted/approved bylaw changes and sent it out for review by Dick and Kim. Dennis will send it to Carolina Mata for posting on our website. She'll remove the existing posting for the revised copy that optioned for virtual vote and change in quorum.

Dennis received an email from John Atlas saying he removed all the items from the Scout closet. They still have stuff in the attic. He's asking for more time to remove the rest. Dennis said the Scouts still have 5-6 weeks before the given deadline.

A member of CANA made a request to use Selah for a seminar/workshop. Dick said she's hosting a training for UMASS. Dennis reminded everyone that we deferred the wedding and said we would revisit opening Selah at a later date. Dick said he checked with Ken White this afternoon about turning on the water. Dave thinks we're rushing too much. The COVID numbers are up and down. We should defer discussing use of Selah for a later date. He's opposed to Selah as a wedding venue and for this request. We have other issues that are more important in front of this board.

Charlie said he's not opposed to the one-day seminar but he's absolutely against the overnight wedding. Dick said he's concerned that there's no stated policy about no alcohol at Selah.

Dennis said once we start opening the church, it'll apply to other groups based on the CDC guidelines. It'll apply to the other church groups using the classrooms and other spaces.

Dave said the AA and Al-Anon have more than 10 people in their groups. The Saturday morning group has more than 20-30 people breaking into different classrooms. He thinks the smallest group turned in their GPC keys. He thinks we should be cautious about opening. If we're not going to open the chapel for the early service, how can we allow CANA to use it? We haven't heard from CANA at all.

Dick asked what would happen if we don't allow anyone other than our own people, no groups? Do we want to be landlords for other than our needs? There was a discussion about renting to CANA and WIMS. Dave said initially CANA was more involved during Coffee Fellowship. We had a few services together but they faded.

Looking at our older congregation, we should think about merging with another church. We need to spend more time discussing this topic and the stewardship demographics at the next GB meeting.

Doug said how do we stir people up, arouse their interest, without making them panic in order to have a thoughtful brainstorming session. Dave had previously said, "Tell everyone we're selling the church. They'll come." Dennis thinks we should meet to discuss some broad options and invite key church people to clarify those options about whether we stay open or close. There was a discussion about having a critical thinking session. We're beyond former strategic planning sessions targeting increasing membership.

Doug said which is our greater concern: running out of people? or running out of money? You can keep the church on life support but what indicators define when we shut our doors for good? These are practical questions to be answered. Dennis said maybe the church doesn't need to be the building. Can we be in another place and not have the responsibility of this aging property? Maybe we sell all the property and go to a smaller place or become a tenant in our own facility.

There was a discussion about the deacons' proposed plan for reopening GPC for in-person worship. Bob asked about whether two deacons was enough for directing members through the building. There was a discussion about using the elevator and whether to limit entry to just the Leeds Street entrance (red doors).

Dave said the occupancy for the sanctuary, including the balcony, is 300 but since there's recording equipment upstairs, no one should be seated in the balcony. Utilizing the parent's room alcove, we could easily fit 100-125 people in alternating pews with only same household families seated together.

There was a discussion about making a reservation at the church office or via email by the end of the business day on the Friday before the Sunday service. Charlie said Marion McLarin currently calls in to check the voice messages several times a day. People will need to give their name, number in the party, and the phone number or email to be reached. Doug added that nonmember walk-ins will be welcome.

Doug said Carolina is determined to livestream the service live while we're gathered in the church. She's going to meet with Scott Galbraith this week about the camera work. She'll let Doug know if she needs any additional equipment.

Kim said another question is whether we have hand sanitizer and enough sanitization supplies on hand. If not, she'll pick-up supplies at BJ's when shopping for Mustard Seed next week. Dave said Matt will be instructed to sanitize weekly where people have entered and exited as well as the sanctuary, 3rd floor bathroom, and the elevator.

The planned start day is April 11, the Sunday after Easter. Doug said we need to have enough time to be prepared for the opening and Easter is not enough time. Dennis said we need to backdate when we publicize so people have enough successive weeks of the plan to reopen.

Dick said the instructions need to be explicitly broken down onto one page for readability. Kim will edit the specific instructions and send them out to the GB on Saturday for their review. When approved, they'll be shared with the deacons.

Doug asked what time the one service will be offered. Dennis agreed that we could compromise and accommodate both the early service (8:30) and the family service (10:00) for a 9:30 a.m. service. Bob said the Family Service had been a 9:30 service for a long time when the early service was at 8 a.m. Everyone agreed to the 9:30 start time.

Dennis said Carolina Mata is a valuable and critical member of our team. However, at 20 hours a week, it seems like there are more demands on her time. We want to ask her if she can add an additional 10 hours a week. His sense is she's doing more than the 20 hours we're paying for her weekly. Doug will ask her these questions when he sees her tomorrow. How many hours is she currently working? Is she putting in more hours than she's getting paid? Is she able to add more hours if there's more demand on her time?

Dennis said Dot is coordinating with Marion McLarin for the pansy sale on April 10th. A notice will be coming soon.

Dave said the dumpster was filled to the brim last week. He thinks we may need to increase the size of the dumpster to avoid spillage. Sometimes the Food Hub is not breaking down the boxes and he lets Shon know to flatten them. Dave monitors this weekly. Charlie asked if it was a surplus due to the Scouts collecting their gear from the hallway closet that they may have thrown away. Dave said he didn't think so since it was mostly packaging and food items.

Dave made a motion to adjourn. Bob seconded. Unanimous agreement. The meeting ended at 8:55 p.m.

The next Governing Board meeting is a Zoom conference call scheduled for Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 7 p.m. with an interim Zoom meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Paré, Clerk