

GPC Governing Board
Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2021

Via Zoom conference call: Rev. Dr. Douglas Cederberg, Dennis Christo, Robert Converse, Kim Paré, Lyn Wasilewski, David Raphael
Absent: Charles Whittall This Zoom conference meeting commenced at 7:02 p.m.

Lyn offered a prayer of thankfulness for this day and all the people who work for our health and safety. We pray for stewardship of our church and all those suffering from afflictions. We pray for Charlie and his family as his mother transitions to the larger life. Dennis offered gratitude for Lyn's work all year, and in the past, as this in her last GB meeting.

VOTE: The GB Minutes from 1/26/21 had been previously distributed and reviewed. Dave moved to approve the minutes as presented. Lyn seconded. Unanimously approved. No opposition and no abstentions.

Treasurer's report: Bob said it's too early to report on January's finances. Charlie set us up with a payroll company that only does payroll for churches. Charlie has also been working on the PPP loan.

Dennis said Joyce Smith sent a monthly summary about the Food Pantry. He'd like her to report the numbers of individuals/families served along with the date and any notes she thinks are prudent. She's been a little frustrated with how few people came for food in January. Dave said he's concerned too because the Worcester County Food Bank is constantly busy during the COVID pandemic and he's wondering if Food Hub has impacted people coming into the parking lot. Maybe they need to open on a different day. They had previously been open for three hours and now only do two.

Kim added that Mustard Seed asked for a cut back from 120 meals to 75 meals since November. They explained that there's less people in attendance due to the weather. The city is really trying to get people off the streets and into shelters.

Lyn added that Zion has posted on Greendale Facebook posts for delivery of extra food once they've served people who come to their Food Pantry. Lyn suggested that if the model isn't working anymore then we need to move beyond our walls. A delivery service might be what is needed. Dave said that when we were thinking about partnering with the Worcester County Food bank, many of the volunteers for the GPC Food Pantry didn't want to ask the questions required for the Hands Across America.

Dennis said a neighbor of Selah's made another pitch to purchase Selah. Dennis replied, "no, thank you." Lyn said since the neighbor wants to buy it, doesn't need to finance it, while optioning to allow GPC to use it means maybe we shouldn't dismiss this in its entirety. We have to really ask ourselves if we can logistically afford to retain all of this real estate. Avoiding a broker may save us some money. Dennis said good point but we're not ready to move forward on this yet. There's a process.

A different email was from an attorney regarding a piece of property that was gifted/donated to a local hospital that GPC presumably owns. The forestry plot that was described seems to be the plan that looks like Selah. No answers yet. We may need our own attorney.

The Virtual Service have been going well. People like having Doug preach from the sanctuary. Doug said Carolina will tape him tomorrow in the chapel to avoid the echo. They're also going to record the Ash Wednesday service too. Kim will host the Virtual Service at 6 p.m. on 2/17 using the Coffee Hour Zoom ID.

The deacons ironed out some wrinkles at their meeting last Wednesday. Kim is going to step aside from communion and Doug will add that part of the service on 2/21. The deacons are seeking participation for the parts (Greetings, prayers, readings) of the Virtual Service. There was a discussion about reopening given Governor Baker's lessening of the indoor restrictions from 25% to 40% capacity. This is related to restaurants and gyms.

Lyn and Anne Kruse were the GPC liaisons for the user Task Force. Shon Rainford was on the team too. If people want to get back to church, they need to take charge of the protocols required for group gatherings. There needs to be active participation by more people than the GB.

The Annual Meeting went well and was pretty well attended. Dave said that except for the initial technological glitches it went well. He thinks that the body of people heard that the GB has been regularly meeting and have made decisions for GPC with the best of intentions. The answers to the questions were answered by others besides the GB. Karen Allen did a phenomenal job. Lyn said we've had to serve the congregation under conditions unlike any other in our history. We have served GPC really well.

Lyn asked if the ballots have return addresses to ensure they were from members. We don't need to know who returned them. Karen has been taking them out of the envelopes. Ki and her daughter, Eli, will tally the ballot results on Thursday evening. How will we report the ballot results? Dave thinks we should publish the results in an all-person email and in the weekly news blast from Carolina. Lyn thinks maybe we need to send another mailing since not everyone has email. Karen knows who doesn't have email. She could send a letter to just those that don't receive the Link.

Dennis reviewed the 3 fundamental questions posed to the Pastoral Search Team. Why are we still a church? What is our purpose today? What are our goals moving forward?

How do we energize all of the 125 members? Not everyone is interested in serving on a committee or attending study groups but may find special events appealing.

Lyn said now that the Boy Scouts have left for another church, that leaves Thursday nights open. Generations after the Baby Boomers yearn for fellowship and connection other than hearing the liturgy. Maybe a community night with different offerings such as yoga, learning to crochet, a cooking club, etc. Dennis said this is important that people need to participate with time, effort, and energy. How do you reach the community to draw people in to the church?

The third issue is the disposition of the property/real estate. How are we using each property to serve our ministry? Is downsizing or selling property beneficial to us in order to maintain our existence or would it mean losing our identity all together.

There was a discussion about how to get the word out, to re-task Team TLC, incite others to brainstorm with people how to address these questions. Dave said if you want people to come forward, tell them we're selling the church or Selah. They'll be present in numbers!

Lyn made a motion to adjourn. Bob seconded. Unanimous agreement. The meeting ended at 8:30 p.m.

The next Governing Board meeting will be a Zoom conference call scheduled for Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 7 p.m. The next interim Governing Board meeting is also a Zoom conference call scheduled for Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Paré, Clerk