

GPC Governing Board  
Meeting Minutes  
October 26, 2021

*Via Zoom conference call: Rev. Dr. Douglas Cederberg, Dennis Christo, Charles Whittall, Robert Converse, Nancy White, Kim Paré*

*Absent: David Raphael*

This Zoom conference meeting commenced at 6:31 p.m.

Bob offered a prayer for good deliberations in tonight's meeting. Amen.

**VOTE:** The GB meeting minutes from 9/28/21 had been previously distributed and reviewed. Charlie moved to accept the minutes as written. Bob seconded. Unanimously approved. No opposition and no abstentions.

The meeting opened with a recap of the statement in the previous minutes about Doug being the Settled Pastor put for congregational vote at the January annual meeting

Financial report: Charlie Whittall has not put out the end of the month report because there's one more Sunday, but all of the bills have been paid for the Fales Street land and hardscaping. There's money in the bank and the \$60k taken will help get us through the end of the year without revenue from the fair. Charlie will be working with the Finance Committee to finalize a budget for next year. Donations /giving is down a couple points since last week. There's money already set aside from last year to cover most of the items for the Turkey Shoot.

Diaconate needs readers. Let Bill Hackett know if interested. Coffee fellowship is covered through November. Christmas Eve service will be at 5:30 on 12/24 with a Sunday service on 12/26.

Food Hub is still in limbo as to where to put all of their equipment. We think they should be consolidating their stuff in an unused classroom.

Carolina has met with Russ Vickstrom and worked out protocols. They've advertised for a social media team but no one has signed up. Nancy said she signed up to be a monitor of comments on the GPC FB page.

Doug suggested having a quick Zoom meeting for anyone who will cover the live camera feed on Sundays. He'll consult with her tomorrow about whether she wants to be covering 2 Sundays a month and Kim and Lyn Wasilewski covering the others.

CANA is meeting per their FB page but they haven't affirmed being in the building. Nancy said they've been back to service on 10/17. They'd like to have a monthly potluck supper since they're now meeting near dinner time. Nancy sent David Gentlemen the contract and will follow up since they haven't returned it signed.

WIMS has been meeting as a much smaller group the last few Sundays. There was a discussion about whether we have a contractual agreement.

Charlie said Food Hub's contract ends in December but Shon Rainford wants to contract for all of 2022. He thinks there should be a cost increase due to the increase in the number of their people using the kitchen at all hours. Dennis said if their usage has increased by 20-25%, they should have an increase in their rate to cover the utilities costs.

The Finance Team (Charlie, Bob, & Dave) has previously said we have enough funds for several, 10-15 years as long as the stock market holds. Dennis answered one congregant's inquiry related to this being an actuality. Dennis said he informed the person that based on what the FT knows, they are able to project that guesstimate. Charlie said he heard from a person who asked, "Why should I give if we're going to close?" Bob said we were trying to be clear that we are here to stay.

Nancy shared the Facility Use Team (FUT) update. The FUT needs confirmation about increasing the rates for rentals.

Smaller room rentals previously were \$25.00 per hour with a 2-hour minimum  
Suggest that we raise to \$35.00 with a 2-hour minimum

Fisher Hall rentals were set at the following:

4-hour time slots

\$75.00 for Fisher Hall only

\$125 for Fisher Hall and limited kitchen (coffeemaker, refrigerator, counter use only)

\$175 for Fisher Hall and Full Kitchen

Suggest we raise to

\$100

\$150

\$200

Also, church members can rent for non-church related activities at 1/2 the rate.

Also, suggest that if a charity or self-help group cannot afford rates that the FUT be given the leeway to negotiate down to the 1/2 rate.

**VOTE:** Charlie made a motion to increase the rates as recommended by the FUT. Kim seconded. Dennis said the utilities and cleaning has garnered the increase in costs. Unanimously approved. No opposition and no abstentions. Final point is that the FUT has the leeway to negotiate the halfway rates for

Other questions for the Governing Board:

Can we rent the Youth Group Room on the 1st floor?

Do we want to rent office space for incubator businesses?

Do we want to rent the "Parents Room" off the sanctuary?

There was a discussion about the use of the rooms and the furniture currently occupying those spaces.

*The Greendale People's Church has rental space for ongoing group meetings, one-time meetings and more. We are located in the Greendale/Burncoat neighborhood in Worcester, MA. Our*

*building has accessible parking spaces, an elevator and WIFI. Parking is included in our rental fee. We have a variety of rooms on 3 floors with space anywhere from 200 - 400 square feet as well as larger spaces up to 2300 square feet. There are bathrooms available on each floor. We also have a camp in N. Orange with room for groups and overnites during the summer months. Go to our website to check our calendar for availability (Connect/Calendar of Activities) and to fill out a building usage form (Connect/Building Rentals).*

Nancy also noted that if/when GPC gets to the point about considering selling Selah, the Selah Committee would like the GB to understand that the preservation of the property as a natural resource should be a priority and to live up to its virtue when it was originally purchased. However, the needs of the church at the time when a decision is made to sell will be the primary focus.

Charlie said there are increasing costs for business Wi-Fi (\$125/month) at Selah. Charlie canceled this yesterday and it can be re-examined in the spring about whether we'll get better rates if we bundle the landline and Wi-Fi. There is no charge to use the provider's equipment. A security camera for Selah will be discussed in the spring.

There was a discussion about the current restrictions about indoor gatherings in the time of COVID. Worcester remains in the red zone and there's no new information publicized to lessen the mask wearing restrictions.

Charlie said Lisa from the landscaping team offered to price sprucing up the indoor garden. We should review their bid when it comes in.

Charlie made a motion to adjourn. Bob seconded. Unanimous agreement. The meeting ended at 8:02 p.m.

The next Governing Board meeting is an interim hybrid & in-person & Zoom meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 23, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Kim Paré, Clerk*