

GPC Governing Board
Meeting Minutes
June 28, 2022

Hybrid meeting: in-person & Zoom conference call: Dennis Christo, Robert Converse, Nancy White, Kim Paré, Dennis O'Malley, Rev. Dr. Douglas Cederberg
Absent: Charles Whittall This Zoom conference meeting commenced at 6:31 p.m.
Guest: David Raphael

Dennis C. offered a prayer of thanks for our blessings, asked for guidance to do the work of the church, and for those who need His healing touch – especially Charlie Whittall.

VOTE: The GB meeting minutes from 5/24/22 had been previously distributed and reviewed. Bob moved to accept the minutes written. Nancy seconded. Unanimously approved. No opposition and no abstentions.

Bob Converse filled in a financial update that in May the pledges are up to date. We took \$24k the first half of the year. Hopefully, Charlie will have more information next month.

Joyce Smith reported to Dennis C. that there's been an uptick in more people coming to the food pantry due to the higher costs of food. There has not been a volunteer to stand in for Joyce when she steps aside in September. Donna Fife and Wendy Fallow have assisted her but will need additional help.

The Shanahan keyboard does not work. Carolina Mata is exploring options. The estimate was \$500. dollars or a new, small, soundboard mixer. Her notes are identified below.

1. Our mixer has 32 channels/inputs to connect the microphones. There is a problem with channels 1-24. Those channels are unstable and send feedback even when muted. This is the reason we've been having so many issues with our sound. The sound engineer updated the software, but could not fix the channels and he thinks the problem is internal. We would have to send the board to Shanahan for repair.

2. The good thing is that 8 channels are working and the sound engineer set up the microphones on these channels. For now, the sound in the Sanctuary should be good.

3. The not so good news; since our sound board is old, these 8 channels could stop working at any moment, just like the other 24 channels. One of our options is to send the mixer to Shanahan to get repaired. But there is a chance that the mixer can't be repaired.

4. Another option is to get a small sound board and an iPad. This gives us the advantage of managing the sound from downstairs and streaming at the same time from the iPad. I will get more information and quotes from Shanahan and will also contact other Sound Engineers I found in Framingham (Prevco Audio), just to compare prices and options. If you know any other places for quotes, please let me know too.

I was googling small sound board mixers, and I saw reasonable prices from \$200-\$500. But, still don't know if these are capable of being managed with an iPad or compatible with our sound system. I was just trying to get an idea. Shanahan will send me a quotes and costs of sending the sound system for repair. I will keep you all updated as soon as I know more and of course before we move forward.

There was a discussion about the certified letter Dennis wrote/sent on 2/22 to Ritacco Brothers regarding the \$2k owed. The envelope has come back with no reply since mailing. He googled the business, Ritacco Construction. He wrote a second letter last week and is awaiting that it has been delivered. He had previously reached out to Attorney Larson with no reply. There was a discussion to not pursue this action further.

There was a discussion about the ICCO request to support Ukraine relief. We've raised \$750.
VOTE: Bob made a motion to raise a total of \$1k for Ukraine Relief. Dennis O seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. No opposition and no abstentions.

The ceiling maintenance is ongoing to replace the two skylights, make repairs to support beams, put in a new roof and a new ceiling. Dennis C. informed the contractors, Cole Brothers, it should all be done by Homecoming on September 11th. The estimate totals \$59,900 including the ceiling work already completed in three adjoining rooms.

There was a discussion about installing a handicap ramp on the second floor from the conference room to the mural room. Rod White is working with Cole Brothers Construction on this project as well.

Nancy identified new MassDEP comprehensive Consent Order for full GB to sign.

- a. *We must sign and return to Mr. Gorski by 10 July 22*
- b. *We must conform to requirements in para.#8, A-J.*

Actions to be taken:

- a. *GB sign the CO. Please have church Office print a copy for all to sign.*
- b. *Find a water certification provider to accomplish the tasks required in para. 8. For sampling, testing, certification, and reporting. Complete and submit required forms.*
- c. *Find a plumber to add a water meter and sample tap required in para. I.*
- d. *Develop an Emergency Response Plan and submit to DEP.*
- e. *Determine the costs associated with accomplishing requirements in the DEP letter.*

There was a discussion about Housatonic Basin Sampling and Testing Company (\$1,360.) versus Whitewater (\$2,500.) testing costs and the deadlines by August 31st. There was a discussion about the GB signatories for GPC per the bylaws indicating that the Chair is the signer of all documents for the church.

VOTE: Nancy made a motion to contract with Housatonic for \$2k to complete the required aforementioned work including the follow-up water sampling testing for this summer. Bob seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. No opposition and no abstentions.

Nancy added that the Trustees of the Reservations, a nonprofit organization, is interested in potentially purchasing the property and maintaining it as a preserved property. They will be paying for a Title 5 inspection on the septic system this Friday. Dave added that he thinks this cannot wait for the Annual Meeting next January but a special congregational vote this fall regarding the sale of Selah. There was a discussion about drafting a letter to the congregation of the steps that have been taken to manage the property as well as why now is the time to sell the property to a nonprofit who will maintain it for its intended purpose, kept as a camp and recreational area. There was a property appraisal in 2019 for \$310k. Dennis C. said he's going to resurrect the Property Management Task Force Deborah Richards, Co-Chair; Richard Grayson, Co-Chair; Russell Vickstrom, Kenneth White, Jan Anderson, Rod White, Carlo Cimato, Kim Paré.

There was a discussion about the pictures of other church signs Dennis C. took, shared via email. There was a discussion about giving Signarama some direction about what we want for an electronic sign. Kim will contact Signarama for conceptual designs based on ones we've seen about the city, especially along the line of Lion's Club.

VOTE: Dennis O. made a motion to make Francis Street an honorarium to Eddie Mecca, "Eddie Mecca Way" as he grew up on Francis Street. Nancy seconded. Dennis C. will sign the letter to our neighbor, Patricia Smith-Murphy, who sent out the petition. Unanimously approved. No opposition and no abstentions.

There was a discussion about the interior door of Francis Street being deliberately unlocked. Food Hub staff tried to fix it.

There was a discussion of the statues near the foyer gifted to GPC by the Cimatós. They will be relocated to the completed Garden Room.

Dave said a plaque will be posted in the Friendship Room, renovations paid for by the Raphael family in honor of Nancy Raphael.

Doug said he's been in contact with the family of Dorothea Simmons, as she's in hospice. They are asking for a planned service and coalition on 7/13.

Nancy said her mother has just been approved for hospice.

Kim mentioned that Lyn Wasilewski was concerned about how stuffy the sanctuary was on Sunday. Dennis C. said Joanne Wilder had followed the SOP and turned it on but it may have not been turned on early enough to cool down the floor.

Nancy made a motion to adjourn. Dennis C. seconded. Unanimous agreement. The meeting ended at 8:37 p.m.

The next regular Governing Board meeting is scheduled for hybrid & in-person & Zoom meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Jul 26, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Paré, Clerk