

JULY 27, 2021 V1

MIT Input Summary and GB Conclusions

(prepared by Dennis Christo)

1. The MIT, as a group, loves GPC and would like to see us survive and even thrive. Continue to do what we have been doing in the past, our historical experiences. Open the church now to all outside groups that used to meet here and to other community group meetings for a fair rental price (such as the Greendale Retired Men's Club). Continue our past Food Hunger activities, such as, Mustard Seed, Food Pantry, and Worcester Fellowship, and QCC, if we have the help to cook and funds to support. To the MIT, and others in the church, having the building open to outside community groups is seen as the essential aspect of our church's mission. Open building for community meetings/support and seek outreach ideas, when reasonable and supportable.

Be aware there's just not enough volunteers at GPC to attempt to resume 'how we used to be.' Pandemic aside, it's been significantly dwindling for the last 5-7 years.

2. Social media outreach, intergeneration training by younger with older, yet continue with hardcopy, continue community outreach. Need printed media – newsletters, etc., as not all have computers. Need better signage. But, also expand on-line capabilities. Continue sending out the newsletter via E-Mail and mailing the LINK and other important information to those who have no access to E-Mail.

a. The idea of gaining members by having community events is futile.

b. Be transparent, inform congregation so people feel involved, seek opportunities for feedback.

3. Stop focus on the Next Generation who doesn't attend church anyway, but, encourage them with our mission works. Is there really a Next Gen for us? Church services are not the focus of

the next generation. The younger generation are not church goers, doesn't want or care for Sunday service. GPC is way past the point of attempting to draw generation Y & Z into church.

We are an older congregation with waning energy and limited resources. Have programs to interest "older" members and such people in the community.

Four of the MIT members have not attended a Sunday service since we re-opened after Covid. There may be very valid reasons for this, but it signals some ambivalence for the Sunday worship at GPC may not be essential to these and/or other members.

4. Continue Religious Education: Basis of future is being a church delivering God's Word serving existing congregation, collaborating with "elder" population. invite community to our Sunday service, our bible studies (Women at the Well, etc.), continue virtual services. Continue with best possible worship services for attendance and virtual congregants; clarify our "Brand" – stay Christ Centered!

a. Continue the Sunday service at 9:30 year round. Holding 2 church services doesn't seem wise or productive. Continue with one service at 9:30 on Sundays, with communion every Sunday.

b. It's sad, but like a terminal illness, we need to prepare for the inevitability of the end. That means maintaining the comfort of the members who continue to participate in our unified service.

5. Miscellaneous Comments:

a. Church building future needs evaluation to keep or not by congregation; alternatives. We need to know if the congregation wants to keep going or close.

b. Spend the money. Continue with drawing down monies from our investments and sell properties until it comes to the point where we will have to make the big decision to go out of business.

c. The lack of attendees/census has led to bleeding funds and lack of revenue. At some point, there needs to be a clear assessment of the tipping point and how long the current

investment funds will last. I think it's time to sell the property we're not using, including Selah and the parking lot across the street.

d. Present facts to inform Congregation to decide what to do.

e. We may not do what we've always done because we are running out of volunteers and burning out the remaining few.

f. Selah is a losing situation. It is not being used by too many church members. It might be time to put it on the market and hope that another non-profit would be interested in keeping it as a camp.