

GPC Governing Board
Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2020

Via Zoom conference call: Rev. Dr. Doug Cederberg, Dennis Christo, Bob Converse, Kim Paré, Lyn Wasilewski, Dave Raphael, Charlie Whittall

This Zoom conference meeting commenced at 7:01 p.m.

Dennis opened the meeting by greeting Rev Doug to his first GB meeting.

Dennis offered a prayer of thanks for all our blessings and asking God's guidance as we navigate the issues for GPC in order to do His will.

The GB Minutes from the Interim October 13th meeting had been previously distributed and reviewed. Dave moved to approve the minutes as written, Lyn seconded. No discussion. Unanimously approved. No opposition and no abstentions.

Bob said October's numbers are in. Income for the month is about 14k with expenses just over 15k. The deficit year-to-date is about \$21k.

Bob said it's the first time in years that we haven't needed to tap into the Investment Portfolio. The Finance Team plans to meet next Wednesday to draft a preliminary budget for 2021. Bob said that pledges to date are about 25%. There's also been pledges coming in for the three-year plan in honor of the 125th anniversary.

Charlie added a PPP update. Much is contingent on the presidential election. If the Republicans win, there's an expectation that the funds will need to be accounted for through additional documentation. If the Democrats win, the loan may be forgiven in full.

A couple of the items on the three-year-plan included facilities: the boiler replacements and the garden retaining wall. Dave shared that if the retaining wall crumbles, it'll still hold up the plot but we just don't have \$15k to repair the wall right now and maybe not in the immediate future given the upcoming winter.

Dennis said Janet Ordway resigned due to a time commitment in taking care of her special needs daughter. The question is how to backfill the GB opening. Dave made a motion to vote Charlie in now as a voting GB member. Bob seconded the motion. Dave added that this will give Charlie time to get acclimated over the next two months since he's taking over as the treasurer in January. Kim asked if we've made public notification of a GB vacancy. It seems that we should be informing the congregation of the opening and ask if there's any interest in someone joining the GB. Lyn thinks we need to look at our by-laws to make sure the GB has the right to appoint someone as an interim member. Janet, Bob, and Lyn were originally a one-year term in order to have alternating replacement members moving forward. Following discussion, this motion was unanimously approved. No opposition and no abstentions.

Dennis said he will write up something for Carolina to publish for notification to the congregation. He will include that the GB has voted Charlie Whittall in as an Interim position before he stands for the slate as the new Treasurer in January.

There was discussion about filling the open GB vacancy. If Bob and Lyn sign on for another year, their new term will be for two years. There's going to be three positions available for nominations and election to the GB.

Dennis will send a copy of the by-laws to all GB members so they can review before the next GB meeting. At the Annual Meeting, there will be opportunities for three seats on the board. The four officers are annually voted by the GB members when they convene after the congregational election.

There's been a request to have a wedding at Selah on Memorial Day 2021. Lyn said Anne Kruse is advocating on behalf of the couple, Adam Sanders and his fiancé, Katie. Anne sent an email with the request for a commitment to the couple so that they can plan their wedding accordingly including health waivers. They have offered \$1,500. for the three-day weekend. Dave said he's not in favor of opening Selah to an event of this size. Kim asked if Adam Sanders is a member of GPC. He's apparently a nephew of Margie Fair and Joanne Wilder. Lyn said she's concerned about the monitoring of the numbers of people at the gathering even with a signed covenant. Lyn said maybe we send a letter of refusal indicating that the camp won't be rented that holiday weekend and revisit the request three months before the date. Charlie asked if we even know how many people will be attending. There are currently capacity requirements on gatherings even outdoors. Lyn added whether the liability insurance for the camp covers factors such as whether they serve alcohol and the proximity to the body of water the camp sits on. There was a discussion about other factors such as demanding a dry wedding. Kim thought it's odd that the couple is using Anne Kruse as a mediator instead of addressing their request themselves.

Dennis rephrased that there's a lot of uncertainty right now and we cannot forecast what the spring will bring. The church and its properties are closed. Lyn will send a letter that we cannot commit at this time and we suggest they seek an alternate venue due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the three-day event, the possibility of alcohol being served, reputation with our closest neighbors, and our standing with the town of Orange

Dave made to motion to deny the request to host a wedding a Selah based on the current church policy of being closed. Unanimously approved. No opposition and no abstentions.

Kim presented an inquiry from one of the board of the directors of the Mustard Seed. They're polling all the churches and organizations that serve about whether they would consider returning to serving a hot meal indoors. The weather is changing and it's getting too cold to serve/eat outside on their lot. Kim said only two of the twenty or so groups said they will go back to serving hot meals. She asked if the GB would endorse returning to preparing/serving a hot meal when Mustard Seed makes the decision to open their indoor seating. Dave said serving a hot meal is necessary and proper notification should be given so that Shon Rainford/Food Hub can accommodate our use of the kitchen. Dave suggested Kim give Carolina Mata a notification to publish requesting funds earmarked for the Mustard seed mission.

Dennis said the deacons are looking for support to help out with the components of the Virtual Services. Lyn suggested that there could be some people who don't have technology and she'd like to offer to record with people who need this support. Dennis will compose something to this effect for Carolina to publish in the announcements and on social media. The larger looming issue is the lack of participation from the congregation at-large.

Dennis asked if GB members had an opportunity to review the Palisades Community Church /Hub Concept: www.palisadeshub.org In a three minute video clip, their Pastor talked about cultivating a community gathering space and receiving 200 responses from a neighborhood survey to start this grassroots mission. Charlie said we need to be open before we try to start something like this. Lyn added that advertising the crochet classes on the Burncoat Neighborhood FaceBook page brought a lot of attention to GPC before the pandemic brought life to a halt. GPC can be more of a community hub when it's open.

Lyn said Annie has gotten back in touch with her to inform her that the piano needs to be tuned. Bob said he knows who tunes the piano, George Evans of Piano Craft on Randolph Road. Lyn will contact him for his services as he's taken care of her piano as well.

Lyn said the web site host, Wix, is up for automatic renewal. Bob thought Scott Galbraith may have paid for it or billed GPC. Lyn will reach out to Scott about whether it was his credit card. Charlie said Wix is not a vendor that we have ever received invoices from or paid to. Dave thought maybe it was Rev Kev's credit card.

Dave said the two parts for the buffer have been shipped and should arrive by the end of the week.

Charlie made a motion to conclude this meeting, Lyn seconded. Unanimously approved to end.

The next Governing Board meeting is an Interim Meeting/Zoom conference call scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 7 p.m. The regular monthly Governing Board meeting will be a Zoom conference scheduled for Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Paré, Clerk