

GPC Governing Board  
Meeting Minutes  
July 27, 2021

Via hybrid live & Zoom conference call: Rev. Dr. Douglas Cederberg, Dennis Christo, Kim Paré, David Raphael, Charles Whittall, Robert Converse, Nancy White

This Zoom conference meeting commenced at 6:33 p.m.

Pastor Doug offered a prayer for this day and for the GB discernment of all GPC business for the last, current, and future generations.

**VOTE:** The GB meeting minutes from 7/6/21 had been previously distributed and reviewed. Bob moved to accept the minutes with one correction for a proposed date of an 8/7 block party for the neighborhood group. Charlie seconded. Unanimously approved. No opposition and no abstentions.

Financial report: Charlie Whittall said we're holding our own. Income was down considerably this month, 12% from budget. Building use is down 20%. We took \$20k from the investment account last month to make payroll. There's still \$828k in the account. Bob said Karen sent 13 letters to people who had given money in 2020 but not in 2021. Four people sent in money and one sent in a pledge. Charlie needs information from Doug for his pension fund. Donations and pledges are down overall. Dennis keeps emphasizing this critical need in his weekly news bulletin. Dave asked if we received the check from the Y. Charlie said payment was received. Charlie said Selah is exceeding income. We have a positive amount of about \$475. However, we have another \$500 in stump removal and another \$750 in utilities until closing in October.

Updates: joint church services for the last four weeks have gone well. There was a good amount of people on Sunday. Doug said it's been a good experience to comingle the two groups of people. Alternating locations in the chapel and sanctuary has gone well. The uptick in COVID has not pushed changes to mask wearing as long as we're not a high-risk area. Services have been going well. Jay Chandler, who covered last week, will be here next week too while Annie's on vacation. We're covered for music for the rest of August. Carolina is always looking for people to help cover the FaceBook live recording. Bob said people reading scripture need a microphone or need to project better. The congregation cannot hear. Doug said it's important for people to hear the scripture because his sermon is built upon the weekly scripture passage. Dennis said there are standing microphones in the chapel. Dave said if Carolina isn't doing the laptop for streaming, the iPhones don't pick up the volume for FaceBook. Bob said it's not for the live feed but the people sitting in the pews. Nancy thought the passage was posted on the screen for people to read along.

Dennis said he received a note from Russ Vickstrom that the Team selected Kevin Underwood for the custodian position. He had previous experience at the Antiquarian Society. Russ did not give Mr. Underwood a hire date. Dave thinks we shouldn't hire him until his CORI comes back. The first full week of August may be enough time for that to process. \$15/hour for maximum of 20 hours part-time, weekly. Kim asked if Matt will complete the orientation for Kevin on Saturday 8/7, including orientation to the building, using the sanitizing machine, and other maintenance equipment. Matt can also turn his keys over to Kevin. Dave thinks there's a write up of the custodian job description. Bob said the custodian's job description is in the Personnel Manual.

**VOTE:** Dave made a motion to hire Kevin Underwood subject to a completed CORI check and his agreement to the hour wage. Kim seconded the motion. Nancy asked who's the supervisor. Dave Raphael is the custodian's supervisor. Unanimous approval. No further discussion. No opposition and no abstentions.

Dennis sent a letter to Berkshire Bank president regarding their subcontract with The Loan Source's abysmal failure with processing GPC's PPP application.

Ron White, Ken White, Russ Vickstrom, and Charlie Whittall have met to address the disintegrated retaining wall at the bottom of the Fales Street property spilling into the parking lot. The Team has sent out letters for RFP bids for a Site Survey of the Fales Street lot. Letters have also been sent out to a couple of landscape companies for reappropriating the fallen dirt and pitch the slope. It will be a lot cheaper than a full wall construction. The insurance purveyor took pictures on Monday to send to the adjuster. Rod is suspicious from his conversation with this gentleman that it may not be covered at all.

The movie company has declined to use GPC since the pictures taken of the interior did not pass the director's review.

Dennis said Carolina cannot do all of the social media promoting for all groups beyond the current Sunday services. Dennis invited Russ to be the social media guru and he accepted. Russ talked to Carolina. There needs to be some guidelines as to how to follow through with this purpose, what they can and cannot do as representation for GPC. Russ currently shares what Carolina has already posted. The MIT group had great for community outreach. The question is will people help and join/support Russ' focus group. Nancy said she will try to research social media guidelines and work with Carolina to finalize some written directions. Charlie said we're on FaceBook and Instagram.

Dennis said the 17 pages of notes from the Mission Implementation Team's was a lot to breakdown, coupled with the GB compilation of their feedback of the original notes. Dennis grouped the commentary into four grouped questions:

- 1.) mission & what we were doing pre-pandemic;
- 2.) social media & community outreach balanced with written weekly newsletters;
- 3.) intergenerational participation and church attendance, reaching out to 50+ makes more sense);
- 4.) religious education/spiritual purpose of church and becoming God's servants.

There were additional comments but not a conclusive fifth statement (see GB Chair's findings).

There was a discussion about the compiled findings and the 126-year history of GPC. What is our brand? Dennis said it's to be a Christ-centered church and to serve God. The joint services have

increased attendance. The congregation is enthusiastic and energized by the one 9:30 service. The original 8:30 service congregants want communion every Sunday which is not an issue going forward. Nancy said that was the whole purpose of Team TLC. They spent 2 ½ years developing our mission piggybacked to our original mission.

The Coffee Fellowship has fostered congregants from the both services intermingling and catching up. There has been positive feedback from a unified congregation.

CANA lost a couple of families since they were not meeting weekly during COVID restrictions. Their musicians are not interested in returning to the chapel due to the set-up for their equipment. Nancy said they have a different process to their service as the praise band is the emphasis around the sermon.

Nancy said people have shared that they're tired of surveys and information gathering. They want a couple of directed choices. Dennis said we can put forth that the building is open to the groups that formally used the building. Kim thinks we should be quite cautious in opening our doors given the delta variant and restrictions that may happen in the fall. There was a discussion about the Fair slotted for Friday & Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>.

Bob said only 3-4 outside groups were interested in using the building. Charlie said we should individually speak to each of those groups but not publicize that were open to everyone and anyone. Doug said some of the groups have already found other sites and moved on. From this point forward, we could entertain opening if they commit to safety. Dennis said first and foremost, we need to take care of our congregation. Dave thinks it's still a challenge since the COVID positive numbers are increasing every day. We should see where we are in the fall amidst potential government restrictions.

We should start with a statement to the congregation for their feedback. Dennis thinks this should be a full, frank discussion with the MIT so they know we heard what they said and confirm it's accurate. Then the consensus is written in a framework of the four points for publication to the congregation. Doug thinks it makes the most sense for the GB to invite 2-3 MIT representatives to share our summary of their comments and get feedback to the four points. Doug will meet with Karen Allen tomorrow regarding setting a meeting of the MIT on 8/4 and representatives to meet for an Interim GB meeting on 8/10.

Dennis said we have a viable church with 40-50 people in regular attendance, without enough budgeted revenue. We can continue in like form for the immediate short-term future but we need to develop a 3-5year plan for long-term actions strategizing selling property and the future of GPC. How does this 3-5year plan fit in with the designated term pastor's year and a half remaining? We would have to determine if the designated term is extended as an option. Doug absolutely would stay if the process of future outcomes is necessary. This is a question to be determined before December of 2022.

Charlie made a motion to adjourn. Bob seconded. Unanimous agreement. The meeting ended at 9:04 p.m.

The next Interim GB meeting is a hybrid in-person & Zoom meeting scheduled with MIT representatives on Tuesday, August 10, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

The next regular Governing Board meeting is a hybrid in-person & Zoom meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 24, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Kim Paré, Clerk*