

GPC Governing Board  
Meeting Minutes  
November 28, 2023

*In-person & Zoom conference call: Rev. Dr. Douglas Cederberg, Dennis Christo, Robert Converse, Karen Allen, Kim Paré, David Raphael, Dennis O'Malley*

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

Dennis O. opened the meeting with a prayer of celebration that we're all God's children. We ask for prayers as we consider the business of GPC as His faithful servants. Amen.

**VOTE:** The GB meeting minutes from 10/24/23 had been previously distributed and reviewed. Dave made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Karen seconded. Unanimous approval by all present, no opposition, and no abstentions.

Pastor's update:

No funerals, weddings, or baptisms this past month. Not a lot of hospitalizations. Doug visited Kathy Freeburn. He'll visit Charlotte tomorrow.

The ecumenical service at St. Michael's on the Heights was well attended by GPC congregants last Sunday 11/19 at 3 p.m.

Scott Olsen filled in for Annie while she was on vacation that Sunday.

Theology 101 classes have wrapped. Participants are preparing a few words on what they learned and will be sharing over the next several weeks.

The Advent Wreath has been pulled out for the weekly service. There will be one service on Christmas Eve at 9:30 in the sanctuary. The service will include carols and readings.

Attendance has been very good at services in both the chapel and the sanctuary. Doug said he is now preaching at floor level in the sanctuary.

Dave asked Doug to remind Carolina to post the Christmas Eve service on Face Book. Dave asked if Doug could visit June Ayers before Christmas. Dennis C. said he visited Erline DeSalvo last week. She gets lots of cards from the Care Ministry but very few visitors.

Finance

Individual offerings have been very good the last two months, and we may hit the budget with five Sundays in December. We've withdrawn \$84k from the investment account.

Stewardship

Karen said we're close to the budget with the pledges. The pledges for 2024 are coming slowly. We only have about \$46k towards the total of \$125k. At this point last year, we were at \$56k in total pledges.

The Fair had a good turnout, but people didn't spend as much. It successfully brought in \$6k.

Dennis C. expected to hear from the Athol Y administration to schedule another meeting about the sale of Selah. He said we have a current property appraisal and are ready for the next conversation if they're still interested in purchasing the property and what the terms are.

Dennis had a conversation with Erline yesterday regarding the cottage.

Dave & Kim gave testimonials to explain roles and responsibilities of GB volunteers. Bob's turn is coming up in the next few weeks.

The GB had a special meeting on 11/19 to review the By-Laws. A few changes were made and agreed upon. These changes were distributed to the GB for review.

Dave said if no one steps up or service on the Governing Board, the By-Laws need to reflect that.

On page 7, new bullet, "In the event there is a vacancy, the GB has the authority to appoint a congregation member to the GB until the next scheduled election at the next annual meeting." Change "persons" to "members."

#### New Business:

Kathy Freeburn started the on-line auction yesterday. Encourage people to bid thru 12/8.

Dave said Rev Ron Wilson will have a burial in the spring. Dave made a motion that the GB recognize Rev Wilson's passing with a donation from the church treasury with an amount to be determined and a purpose to be determined by his family. Karen seconded the motion. All in favor. No Abstentions.

Karen sent out an email reminder to the people responsible for submitting summaries for the Annual Report. Summaries are due by 12/31.

#### Executive Session:

Dave made a motion that the GB go into Executive Session (7:24 p.m.) to discuss 2024 budget and personnel matters. Bob seconded the motion. All in favor. Dennis O. made a motion to come out of Executive Session (7:53 p.m.). Karen seconded the motion. All in favor.

Dave said the Marsden Scholarship letter will be published next week for people interested in this application.

There was a discussion about the contract with Food Hub and the renewal of the copier contract with Xerox.

Discussion about December GB meeting. Agreed to meet early on 12/19 @ 6:30 p.m. instead of after Christmas with the last GB for these current members on 1/16/24 ahead of the Annual Meeting scheduled for Sunday, January 28, 2024.

Karen made a motion to adjourn. Bob seconded. Unanimous agreement. The meeting ended at 8:06 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Governing Board meeting is scheduled for hybrid & in-person & Zoom meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Kim Paré, Clerk*