

GPC Governing Board
Meeting Minutes
August 24, 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 6:38 p.m. after minor technical difficulties.

Dennis offered a prayer for this day and to do God's will in serving our congregation, doing our best to discern the business of the church We pray for all people in war torn Afghanistan and those dealing with catastrophic weather storms in Haiti and Tennessee. Amen.

VOTE: The GB meeting minutes from 8/10/21 had been previously distributed and reviewed. Charlie moved to accept the minutes as written. Nancy seconded. Unanimously approved. No opposition and no abstentions.

Financial report: Charlie Whittall said Tim Grey, of the Grey Group, put \$50k with another \$10k coming at the end of the week. The landscaper has submitted an estimate of \$40k for the retaining wall renovation and change orders may push up the costs. The difference was also to cover the pastor's retirement fund. Doug is still in process to provide all of the information for his retirement plan. Two weeks ago, our collection was only \$600.00. This is not enough on a weekly basis to cover our regular building and staff costs.

We have hired a new maintenance employee. He's collecting SSI and cannot earn more than \$1,300.00 monthly. The difference, to prevent bumping up to this amount, will be given in a monthly \$100.00 gift card. His schedule is flexible for days, up to 20 hours a week. He's in on Saturdays ahead of Sunday services and again on Mondays for cleaning afterwards. Karen Allen has sent out letters to pledges for continued stewardship.

Church Services: One service on Sundays is working. Shutting down for Tropical Storm Henri was a prudent call. Charlie said we need to include the new custodian, Kevin, on the distribution list. Dave Raphael will make sure Kevin is informed.

Building Security: Emphasis with Food Hub. Carolina reported that last week both doors were unlocked and propped open. Charlie said the same thing happened again yesterday morning. It has been communicated to Shon Rainford.

Congregational Informational Meeting is scheduled to follow the 9:30 service this Sunday, August 29th. We expect to discuss maintaining a combined, unified service going forward. This was publicized on our website and by email blast. No phone calls to the office have been received to date. We expect to obtain a consensus based upon attendees. We will continue the live feed from the service into the Informational Meeting.

Doug reminded the GB that the bylaws do not require the GB to secure a vote for this programmatic change. There was a discussion about continuing weekly communion with the individual prepackaged servings.

Dennis expects to publish the key topics in The Way Forward for discussion after the consensus for services. This is the items that were agreed upon by the GB and the Mission Implementation Team (MIT) from the 8/10/21 GB meeting.

The Way Forward, (August 8, 2021, R4) - A Summary of the MIT Input Summary and GB Conclusions was reviewed and edited. I am confident you will appreciate our results that will guide us into the future.

1. Continue Religious Education:

a. *Our Basis for the future is being a church delivering God's Word serving existing congregation and collaborating with our "elder" population. Invite community to our Sunday service, our bible studies (Women at the Well, etc.), continue virtual services.*

b. *Stay Christ Centered! Continue with best possible Christian worship services for our attendees and virtual congregants.*

c. *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, perhaps with communion every Sunday, alternating between Chapel and Sanctuary, except for religious holidays in the Sanctuary. We need to maintain the comfort of the members who continue to participate in our unified service.*

2. GPC Building Status.

a. *Open our building for community meeting/support when reasonable, prudent, and supportable.*

b. *Consider to open church to outside users who request return. Evaluate each request within the context of safety for all, for a fair market rental price.*

c. *Continue our Hunger Action activities, such as, Mustard Seed, Worcester Fellowship, QCC student dinners, and Food Pantry, if we have the volunteers and funds to support.*

d. *Be aware we may not have enough volunteers to resume all activities given our dwindling congregation, evidenced in the past 5-7 years, and comprised of aging members with limitations.*

3. Communications Efforts.

a. *Continue sending out the Newsletter via email and making the Newsletter and other important information available to those members without email who request the hardcopy.*

b. *Continue our Social Media Outreach with our Virtual Church Service.*

c. *Continue the Social Media (SM) Focus Group Team led by Russ Vickstrom to work with Carolina Mata to support church and our groups on various SM platforms, such as, Facebook.*

d. *The Next Generation Y & Z will come to church when they are individually inspired. We will welcome them when they do.*

4. Finances and Facilities:

a. *The lack of attendees/census, high maintenance costs, and reduced giving levels have led to lack of revenue and draw down of investment funds.*

b. *There needs to be a clear assessment by the Finance Team of how long the current finite amount in the investment fund will last given the continued draw down of the account.*

c. The evaluation and cost effectiveness of the church building and properties requires leadership review with congregational input to support paramount decisions.

This joint statement of The Way Forward will be presented for congregational consensus regarding the Sunday services, the Finance Team's assessment of fiscal resources, review the Property Management Task Force (PMTF) assessment regarding all assets, and to continue existing programming as long as economically feasible and staffed, and be who we are while supporting the community as best we can.

There was a discussion about relating *The Way Forward* to the 3 Big Questions and Pastor Goals. Nancy said the 3 Big Questions were part of the published church profile during the search for an Interim Pastor. This will be a primary agenda item for the next interim GB meeting on 9/14. The Social Media Guidelines sent to the GB by Carolina Mata yesterday will also be reviewed at the next interim GB meeting on 9/14. Russ Vickstrom has volunteered to be the Social Media liaison with consultation by Carolina Mata. Dennis will follow-up with Russ about a SM Team.

Kim said Sue Pellerin from Worcester Fellowship replied in an email for a request for a hot meal or 60 bagged lunches for their weekly Thursday luncheon café (September-May). This will be discussed at the next Diaconate meeting on 9/7. It will obviously be based on commitment by volunteers. Dennis said this is a finance question regarding the increased cost in Hunger Action supplies and support by GPC congregation. Charlie said he and Jan will likely take on this mission.

Nancy said the FUT said there is signage needed stating video cameras in use for the parking lot door. This meets OSHA requirements. Kim will download, print, and laminate 3 signs and bring on Sunday.

Charlie made a motion to adjourn. Nancy seconded. Unanimous agreement. The meeting ended at 7:55 p.m.

The next Interim GB meeting is a hybrid in-person & Zoom meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

The next regular Governing Board meeting is a hybrid in-person & Zoom meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Paré, Clerk