

GPC Governing Board
Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2022

Hybrid meeting: in-person & Zoom conference call: Dennis Christo, Robert Converse, Nancy White, Kim Paré, Dennis O'Malley, Rev. Dr. Douglas Cederberg, Charles Whittall
Guests: Kenneth White, David Raphael

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

Dennis O offered a prayer for God to open our ears, hearts, & minds for this evening's meeting.

VOTE: The GB meeting minutes from 7/26/22 had been previously distributed and reviewed. Nancy moved to accept the minutes written. Bob seconded. Unanimously approved. No opposition and no abstentions.

A \$1k collection was donated to Ukraine through Church World Service, and CWS sent an acknowledgement of the donation.

Charlie Whittall had sent a financial update on his Treasurer's Note. Donations are up but we also have a few big, outstanding bills before the end of the calendar year.

Ceiling maintenance in the Garden Room has not commenced. It may not be done by Homecoming as the sky lights are 8 weeks out due to delay in supply chain.

Dennis C has not followed up in small claims court regarding the Ritacco Brothers as he's been away and needs to use the GPC office PC to complete the online document.

The chair lift wasn't working and has now been repaired.

Dennis C said there was a hum on the live stream from a recent service in the Sanctuary. Dave suggested reaching out to the manufacturer of the Shanahan system. Carolina was informed in case it's an app or broadband width issue.

Food Pantry update: Joyce Smith would like to step down from this weekly volunteering. The numbers are increasing as the need in the community increases and food process soar. Wendy Fillow and Donna Fife have been supporting Joyce each week. Nancy will write something for the newsletter. Recognition Sunday is 9/18 and Joyce will be recognized then (among others).

Signarama gave a proposal (\$7,535.) for an LED sign replacement on Leeds' Street. The cost includes removal of the existing sign and installation of the replacement sign but we'll still need an electrician for it's set-up. It includes a 3-year warranty & programming training. If it's on 24/7, it'll last 11+ years. We can change the current angle of the installation for three streets visibility. Dennis C said we can frequently change the message & add color. We gave \$5k as a deposit. We need to pay the balance (\$2,535.) for the sign to be ordered. GB is in agreement to move this project forward to completion.

Nancy had a meeting last month with the Athol Y board chairperson, Kena Vescovi, and the Y executive director, Jennifer Gordon. Dennis set up a follow-up meeting which occurred on 8/11. He discussed that Selah should be retained as natural as possible and not for commercial profit. She asked about a timeline. Dennis C explained our Annual Meeting is held in early January. Selah was appraised in 2019 for \$310,000. Ken said property has increased at least 14% each year since. Dennis C had asked Deb Richards, as co-chair of the Facilities Use Task Force, in an email, the hypothesized increased valuation of the Selah property.

Dennis had published an informational note to the congregation regarding the increased regulatory requirements and decreased use of Selah. Dennis has not received any feedback from the congregation.

Nancy received a DEP update today. A Title V search has already been completed. The Trustees of the Reservation may, at some point, may come back to us with an offer.

Dennis C had a meeting with the district director of the Boy Scouts, Bill Dunbar, the Cub Scout Master, and John Atlas. The Cub Scouts would like to keep the pack here, John Atlas would be COR. GPC holds no liability for their use of the church. Scouts hold their own indemnity policies. The charter representative does not need to be a GPC member. Liz Brown would like to be the COR for the Girl Scouts to return. Nancy will coordinate with Liz & John for the use of the space, dates, etc.

VOTE: Dennis O made a motion that the Cub Scouts are allowed to stay with John Atlas as the temporary COR and the Girl Scouts are invited to use the church with Liz Brown as their liaison. Bob seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. No opposition and no abstentions.

The elevator door needs to be replaced. There's a safety issue and it's going to cost \$8500. We must let them know by the end of August that we want to move forward with repairs. Charlie will complete the form to send to Otis Elevator. If it's not completed by the end of December, they can come in and close off the elevator from use.

Dennis C reviewed the bylaws and noted that the pastor is expected to provide a monthly update at each GB meeting. Doug said he had nothing noteworthy to share but will prepare information for the next meeting on September 27th.

Dennis C also noted that we've also historically had a Pastor Parish Team, as defined by Article 3, Section 6; where 2-3 church members discuss issues of the congregation. Dave added that it was the vice chair of council, diaconate member, and somebody on the search for the pastor. It was also an opportunity for members to bring confidential concerns to the PPT instead of directly to the pastor. Dave Raphael volunteered to be a PPT member with Bob Converse and a member of the diaconate.

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

The next regular Governing Board meeting is scheduled for hybrid & in-person & Zoom meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 27, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Paré, Clerk