

GPC Governing Board
Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2021

Via Zoom conference call: Rev. Dr. Doug Cederberg, Dennis Christo, Robert Converse, Kim Paré, Lyn Wasilewski, David Raphael, Charles Whittall

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

Lyn offered a prayer of thankfulness and appreciation of blessings in our lives. She asks for God's guidance as we deliberate the needs and business of GPC.

VOTE: The Interim GB Minutes from 1/12/21 had been previously distributed and reviewed. Dave moved to approve the minutes with one correction for the name of a street, Boylston, not Mountain. Bob seconded. Unanimously approved. No opposition and no abstentions.

VOTE: The Interim GB Minutes from 1/21/21 had been previously distributed and reviewed. Dave moved to approve the minutes as presented. Bob seconded. Unanimously approved. No opposition and no abstentions.

Treasurer's report: Bob said we have a deficit because we paid the property insurance bill. We have not input the budget yet. Charlie said because it needs to be approved via ballot. The investments are at \$798k without a need to withdraw funds this calendar year. Charlie said we're waiting for guidance on the application process for the newest round of PPP. Charlie said Commerce/Berkshire Bank is not doing the PPP process this time. Charlie said The Loan Source is a third-party vendor processing the applications.

Bob said the snow removal company asked for a 10% increase. Bob asked them for a three-year contract at the adjusted rate. He's awaiting the return of the contract to be signed by Dennis.

Dave had asked last month for the Food Pantry to send a monthly report. Joyce Smith said she'd send the previous month's information in time for the next GB meeting (2/9).

Dennis was in touch with Diane Trippi regarding a nonmember's request to use the church for a September 2021 wedding. He informed her of the GB vote to remain closed until further notice with virtual services at least through the end of March.

Rev Doug said that starting next week, Carolina will record him delivering his sermon in the sanctuary. He added that the deacons are meeting on 2/3 to discuss Lent. There was a suggestion to have drive-thru ashes for Ash Wednesday. He's not in favor of this. It may resemble the Christmas Eve service. He'll follow Carolina's lead in the virtual process of putting it all together. Dennis said the virtual choir has been phenomenal, especially last week with Lyn singing and Lori playing the flute off screen with Annie at the piano.

There was a discussion about the current virtual church service format. Bill Hackett said last week that he has readers through February but would like some fresh faces for the greeting and prayers. Rev Doug said it'll be nice to maybe have opportunities for Easter sunrise service at Indian Lake/Shore Park and/or an outdoor family service at GPC.

The Annual Meeting will be in lieu of the Coffee Fellowship hour next Sunday. Dennis said he announced on Sunday that ballot question 3 is being withdrawn. He published a notice about the withdrawal and the rationale behind it. Some of the congregation is confused about both Charlie and Bob running for the GB. Some people at Coffee Fellowship last Sunday were uncertain about the role of treasurer. They'll need some clarification and explanation as to the duties of the Treasurer not being solely responsible for the finances but rather a liaison to the Finance Team.

Kim said she didn't think she could type the minutes for the Annual Meeting and host the Zoom to mute people while the Chair or other individuals were speaking. Lyn said she'll take over as host after the virtual service once she joins the meeting at 11 a.m.

Kim was concerned about how to do a roll call unless she records each person present the the Zoom call boxes. In years past, we circulated a printed list of members and people signed that they were present next to their name. Dennis thinks the ballots turned in count as the quorum. The Annual Meeting presentation is informational only. Dennis is confident that we'll get at least 50 ballots back. If we don't get 50 ballots, we'll have to make a plan "B."

Rev Doug will do the opening prayer and the benediction at next Sunday's meeting. Dennis will present the flow of the agenda including an explanation of the withdrawal of the Ballot Question 3 regarding the by-law change for Treasurer.

Russ Vickstrom had previously shared information to the GB about community outreach as documented by Palisades Church and Thrive Impact about future church activity. General consensus from all GB members is that we need to insource, not outsource, the work to answers the 3 Fundamental Questions to help develop and guide our future for the PST. You may recall:

1. Why are we still a church? We know our past and how we were founded; but our purpose today and our goals moving forward?
2. GPC has roughly 125 members but a small percentage of these are actively involved. How do we build up energy of the 125 (which may in-turn appeal to newcomers)? Note: not everyone is interested in being a committee or attending study groups, but may find one-time or special events appealing.
3. Property issues: What is the disposition of Camp Selah and 25 Francis Street? How are we using each to serve our ministry? Is downsizing or selling property beneficial to us in order to maintain our existence - or would it mean losing our identity (and subsequently our congregation) altogether?

Dennis thanked Lyn for being on the interim and initial GB and all of her efforts for everything she's done for GPC. She's kept people focused during these meetings and was an excellent liaison to the Building Users Group. We're all very grateful! Thanks, Lyn! She wishes the GB all the best.

Lyn made a motion to adjourn. Bob seconded. Unanimous agreement to end the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

The next Governing Board meeting is an Interim Meeting/Zoom conference call scheduled for Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 7 p.m. The regular monthly Governing Board meeting will be a Zoom conference call scheduled for Tuesday, January 23, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Paré, Clerk