

GPC Governing Board  
Meeting Minutes  
April 13, 2021

*Via Zoom conference call: Rev. Dr. Douglas Cederberg, Dennis Christo, Robert Converse, Kim Paré, David Raphael, Charles Whittall, Richard Grayson*

This Zoom conference meeting commenced at 6:38 p.m.

Rev Doug prayed for the shining sun and changing seasons. We pray for those who suffer from ill health and other challenges. Help us as we prayerfully discern the business of the church. Amen.

**VOTE:** The GB interim meeting minutes from 3/23/21 had been previously distributed and reviewed. Bob moved to approve the minutes as presented. Charlie seconded. Unanimously approved. No opposition. No abstentions.

Dennis sent six months of primary GB meeting minutes and agendas to Carolina Mata for posting to the GPC website. Kim said the interim meetings have been the same business as the regular monthly meetings and should be posted as well. All in agreement. Kim will send the first six months to Carolina for posting.

Treasurer's report: Charlie sent out the Treasurer's report this afternoon. The offering on Sunday included a plate offering beyond what was pledged. We earned \$700. on the pansy sale. The flowers were donated by Colonial Gardens, in Concord, by Wilson's son-in-law, \$350. worth of plants. Dottie sent him a personal note of thanks. Dennis will publish a note of thanks in the weekly notifications on our website.

Dennis and Dick had a Zoom meeting yesterday with attorney Kevin Larson. He checked with the attorney filing the lawsuit and sent the documentation. We don't have any claim to the little piece of property. Dick thinks the town messed it up by posting GPC's name on it. The original deed had unknown owner on the documentation. So, the matter is closed. They're still going after Athol Hospital and a Humane Society since they were named in the decedent's will.

Dennis will send Ken White a copy of the attorney's email with the attached documents. From the GB perspective, the matter is closed. Dick will be going to the Athol Y with Ken White on April 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss their summer plans.

Dennis said the Earth Day clean-up went well. There were many cub scouts in full force with a parent each. Many lawn and leaf bags were filled with two years' worth of leaves and yard debris. Dennis was grateful for Kim Paré, Nancy and Carlo Cimato, Joanne and Michael Wilder, George Warden, Ken White, and Wendy Fallow for cleaning up the top area on Leed's Street and beautifying with mulch.

Dennis remarked how great it was to be in-person, worshipping together after 13 months away. The re-opening went well. The deacons had a meeting last Tuesday 4/6 to discuss the re-opening on 4/11. Kim shared the concerns of a member who regularly attends the 8:30 service. He surprised the deacons with his concern about the lack of communication

Doug said Annie, as a mom of three boys under 7, is extremely uncomfortable being in both the Chapel and the Sanctuary going forward. We need to be respectful of her concerns and not force

her to be in-person. Dick thinks we shouldn't split the services and stay united in one service. Dave thinks the state's numbers are high and the Johnson and Johnson vaccine is on hold. The two services should be put off for a couple of months. Doug added that he's not fully vaccinated yet. Bob agreed with Dick's point and said the people should be together. Charlie said he doesn't see an issue with both services. Dennis said this may be a question for the whole church to answer via a congregational meeting and ballot.

The GB went into Executive Session. Dennis will put the information in his weekly letter and Doug will make the announcement on Sunday at 9:30 service.

Coffee Fellowship is still not allowed by the state's mandate.

Dennis sent out the Tenant's Guidance paper on 4/6. The framework from this came from Dick's original proposal. There was a discussion about only including GPC members as the landlord and not invite tenants. Dennis said the tenants had been included in the last meetings. Dave said Shon Rainford is like another set of eyes and ears in the church. Dick pointed out that only Food Hub, the Athol Y, and junior units (Cub Scouts & Girl Scouts) will be allowed access to the building. Dick said four others have made requests for building use. Dennis will send the guidance/instructions to the Tenant's Team which Dick will chair.

## **GPC Facilities Use Team (FUT)**

*13 April 2021. Rev1*

*The following describes the purpose, objectives, timing and outputs of the GPC Facilities Use Team (FUT). The FUT is a small focused team whose mandate is to assist the GPC Governing Board in making a determination on all facility use, and if to open, what are the protocols and procedures to open our building facilities for tenants and support groups to use for meetings and functions, other than worship.*

### **Objectives**

*The overall objectives of the FUT is to make a recommendation to reopen church property facilities, namely the GPC Building and Camp Selah, for congregation and / or non-congregation use.*

- *Review the State and Worcester Community government's guidance and instructions governing use of public community gatherings and the precautions for public safety in the midst of the COVID-19 virus pandemic.*
- *Hold meetings and conversations with principal users and stakeholders to gather relevant input.*
- *Prepare a written guide for church leaders and building users in the safe re-opening of our building and Camp Selah to comply with governing directives from state and local authorities.*

*The FUTF shall make recommendations to answer questions such as:*

- *Do we rent, lease or give space or use of same, to any outside groups other than the following exceptions for the remainder of 2021.*
  - Those exceptions will be as follows:*
    - 1. Worcester Regional Food Hub – Fisher Hall & Kitchen as presently configured.*
    - 2. Athol YMCA at Selah for their Summer Camp Program.*
    - 3. Other individual or group users of Camp Selah*
    - 4. Cub and Girl Scout/Brownie units*
    - 4. GPC groups presently formed such as Proto #4, Friendship group, etc. or new groups formed for the needs of GPC people. Covid rules would determine when this will take place.*
- *A standard notice will be developed to be given to requests of this kind to state the reasons to be the COVID regulations and the need for the Church to determine its future direction.*

- *How do we communicate and implement our own directions and guidance?*
- *Who will ensure compliance and How do we do it?*
- *What are consequences of non-compliance?*
- *Can/should we limit the group users? Limit the number of people within each group? Limit the rooms/space available to outside users? Entrance screening?*
- *What signage and markings are needed?*

### **Budget, Members and Timeline**

*Funds have not been specifically allocated for this activity. Timeline is as soon as practical but NLT 1 June 2021*

### **The Task Force Members:**

- *Dick Grayson, Deputy Board Chair*
- *Ken White, Congregation Member*
- *Deborah Richards, Congregation Member*
- *Shon Rainford, Manager, Food Hub*
- *Church Member, Bob Converse*

Team TLC worked for over 2½ years to develop consensus for the mission, vision, values. Dennis said next steps is formalizing and executing the how and who from the Mission Implementation Team. Doug will lead this Team.

### **Guidelines for GB Meetings**

*April 12, 2021*

*Purpose of these guidelines is to establish an operating guide for transparency of GB. These guidelines will apply to all GPC Governing Board Regular Monthly Meetings.*

- 1. Meeting guidelines will be determined and published.*
- 2. Meetings, either in-person or Zoom, will be open to the Congregation to listen, participate, or view.*
- 3. A Meeting Agenda will be prepared. Location or Zoom access will be identified.*
- 4. Meeting Minutes will be published upon approval and posted for Congregation members to read and review. Posting will be on the Church website with password protection. Also, a hard copy will be printed and posted in a binder in the church Office.*
- 5. The meeting Agenda and regular Reports, financial or special, will be similarly filed.*
- 6. Application of General Rules of Order will apply.*
- 7. The GB Chair, or Acting Chair, will host and moderate the monthly meeting.*
- 8. Church members attending are able to listen to GB member's discussion and can participate, as required and recognized, to the topic under discussion.*
- 9. Church Members are encouraged to identify issues or matters of interest or concern, in advance to the GB Oversight Member for the topic area. The Oversight GB member will address the matter for the church member who need not be present, or who can contribute to any relevant discussion of the topic.*
- 10. The GPC By-Laws will apply.*

The application of Robert's Rules should apply. GB meetings should be transparent. Guests may attend and listen but may not participate in full, especially if the GB goes into Executive Session.

Dave moved to have the GB vote to approve to follow the Guidelines for Meetings. Bob seconded. Dave said it's important to have this voted upon for future meetings and future GB members. Unanimously approved. No opposition. No abstentions.

Dennis suggested having in-person/hybrid GB meetings. Kim would have a challenge getting across town for 6:30. Charlie suggested putting a TV in the conference room so some people can join in-person and others can Zoom. The GB agreed to continue meeting virtually until summer.

Dennis previously shared the Food Pantry report. Charlie said there looks to be an uptick at the beginning of March.

### Greendale Peoples Church Food Pantry Results

2021	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Totals	
January	4/8	5/20	3/7	3/7		5/42	
February	1/6	2/7	3/9	6/15		12/38	12/37
March	6/15	8/20	3/8	7/20	8/27	32/90	
April							
May							
June							
July							
August							
September							
October							
November							
December							
<b>Totals</b>	11/29	15/47	9/24	26/42	8/27	49/170	49/169
				16/42			

Dick said the UMASS group will be meeting in May at Selah. The wedding request is not an issue as they already got married. When Dick met with the White's in the fall, and he mentioned that GPC might be thinking about selling Selah, they said they don't have the capital for an outright purchase. Dick and Bob found the original purchase of sale/deed from 1965 signed by Clerk, Sandra Grayson.

Dave made a motion to adjourn. Bob seconded. Unanimous agreement. The meeting ended at 8:28 p.m.

The next Governing Board is a regular GB Zoom meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. The next interim meeting is a Zoom conference call scheduled for Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Kim Paré, Clerk*