

GPC Governing Board
Meeting Minutes
December 22, 2020

Via Zoom conference call: Rev. Dr. Doug Cederberg, Dennis Christo, Bob Converse, Kim Paré, Lyn Wasilewski, Dave Raphael, Charlie Whittall

This Zoom conference meeting commenced at 7:00 p.m.

Dennis offered a prayer. He offered our humble, thankful hearts to do His will in this challenging world. We ask for guidance as we deliberate on behalf of GPC. We are so grateful for all our volunteers who do so many things for the church and community with so much joy in their hearts. We lift up the family of Barbara Pearson who recently passed this week.

The GB Minutes from the December 8th Interim GB meeting had been previously distributed and reviewed. Dave moved to approve the minutes as written. Charlie seconded. Lyn corrected the business she's going to be managing is electrician not plumbing. Unanimously approved. No opposition and no abstentions.

Bob said November's numbers were already reviewed on 12/8. As we near the end of December, we're in the red about \$650 before this Sunday's collection. All the bills have been paid. The plow company has not sent an invoice for the most recent snowstorm. We're likely to break even.

Dennis said he received \$33,600. in pledges for the 125th anniversary with \$9,647. collected thus far. The overall budget, in consideration of the pandemic and challenges of this year, that near breakeven is pretty extraordinary.

Charlie said we'll be eligible to reapply for the next round of PPP recently approved by the federal government. Kim said we should reach out to our loan officer to let them know that we'll be petitioning. This round will be focusing on deficit budgets due to PPE expenditures. Charlie said it's through Commerce Bank. He connect with the loan officer next week.

Dennis said Nancy White had responded to the Board of Health in Orange. Dave coordinated with Nancy to make sure that the required annual (2021) fee was paid with the filing of the form. Bob said he paid last year's in May.

Dennis had put notices n the Link and the e-Blast. He hasn't had any responses except for Nancy White. It's a little disconcerting that people are not stepping up to volunteer. If you know of someone who you'd like to nominate or you could reach out to, please have that conversation.

Dennis said the virtual services seem to be moving along. Bill Hackett is doing a good job coordinating all the volunteers. The choir has shown interest in wanting to record with Annie. Lyn said it's just been Annie, Sue and her. She's hoping others will participate. Doug said he's meeting with Carolina and Annie weekly. Annie is feeling more confident as she becomes more competent with the software and technology. He suggested that she load up on the Christmas Carols. She's happy and her morale is high. Doug's wife will be doing the Christmas Eve scripture reading from Luke. Carolina is talking about developing a podcast in the New Year.

Dave said Charter Spectrum notified us that they're upgrading us from 100 to 200 broadband without an increase in charge. Kim said she was experiencing internet problems this morning at work and her IT person said to check with Charter to increase the bandwidth. The new Basic Business is no longer 100/10 (downloads/upload) but 200/10 so Charter should have offered this bandwidth upgrade in good faith since it's the starting minimum for all accounts.

Dennis said Barbara Pearson passed away last night. Miles Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. The family is adamant that they want a church service even with the new restrictions on a maximum of 10 people capacity as of 12/26 per Governor Baker's new COVID-19 protocol. Doug added that the family wants Dennis O'Malley to perform the service. Bob said who cleans up? Charlie and Lyn said we should not be making any exceptions. Kim said she thought Kevin performed a service in the sanctuary for Harvey Hartleb. Dave said that was before the GB took its firm stance on keeping all church property closed until further notice. Dennis said the church wasn't opened for Harvey Hartleb. He had a graveside service. Kevin last performed a service for Jane Laflamme and Norma Copeland. Lyn said Jane died in April and there was no way to do the service. Charlie suggested holding a Memorial Service in the spring or summer when the church is open again. Doug asked if any of Barbara's family members have come to church. Dennis said her niece often brought her. Lyn said she thought it's odd that the family already named the celebrant yet want Doug to reach out to the family.

Dave said the owner of Miles Funeral Home is Rick Mansfield. Doug should reach out to Rick and explain GPC's stance on the church remaining closed. Dennis added that way back when GPC was performing funeral services for indigent people, Ricky would come in support of that mission. Doug said he heard back from Ricky that "rest assured" they'll handle the arrangements and notifying the family.

Dennis said he updated a couple of things for the Annual Meeting: the agenda and the ballot. Bob said that the annual budget should be approved by the congregation. This item needs to be added to the ballot. Bob also found a spelling error which Dennis corrected.

Dennis said the main item is the treasurer position. He reworded the statement about the treasurer. The treasurer is a GB member. The person who is the treasurer is designated by the elected GB. The person gets elected to the GB. The GB then determines and designates the officer positions. Two-year re-election is not practical since the treasurer needs long-term continuity.

Dave said if, in two years, Charlie doesn't want to be on the GB is he still the treasurer? It needs to be explained that there's only going to be two people elected every two years as the slate will never be unfilled due to the renewing terms until persons don't want to serve.

We're going to have an Annual Meeting on January 31st. Voting will not occur at this meeting. We'll be providing an Annual Report by January 15th. It will contain all items for voting on. The ballots must be returned within 10 days. The GB Clerk will use impartial volunteers to count the votes and summarize the findings in a report. Lyn will coordinate getting information from the Teams. Deadline for information is 12/29. Lyn hasn't received information from anyone. Karen Allen said she'll collate and publish the information for the Annual Report. Doug asked if Carolina or Annie submit any reports. Dave read aloud the line-up of content from last year's meeting. Many Teams were listed as having "pending report."

Lyn thinks every Team should submit something to summarize the connections we made in meeting virtually and continuing to be the church during this highly unusual year when the church is closed. She said it's odd if people are doing all these things by and for the church and no one is recognizing that is worth promoting. This is the kind of stuff that should make people come alive. If people don't think that what they're doing is vital and important, they'll never feel alive. Dennis said an email may help. Lyn said she'd be happy to send an email to the Teams from the Vice-Chair.

Open business. Lyn said on the Burncoat FB page, there's some turmoil in Troop 9. Dave said Ken White moved the trailer to the West Boylston Lodge and they're paying \$400. to keep it there for the winter.

Doug said Carolina wasn't feeling well recently, last week, but she tested negative for COVID.

Dennis thanked everyone for the work they've done during this crazy this year. We look forward with to a peaceful Christmas and with anticipation for great things in the New Year.

Dave would like to note that Ken White spent a couple of hours today fixing the inner door. It's great he has those skills and is willing to use them to benefit GPC.

Lyn made a motion to conclude this meeting. Kim seconded. Unanimously approved to end.

The next Governing Board meeting is an Interim Meeting/Zoom conference call scheduled for Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 7 p.m. The regular monthly Governing Board meeting will be a Zoom conference scheduled for Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Paré, Clerk