

GPC Governing Board

Interim Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2021

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 7:01 p.m.

Dennis welcomed everyone to the New Year. Dave offered a prayer for guidance and strength to do the tasks entrusted to us as the GB. Dave asked for a moment of silence for those who we have lost in the recent past. Amen.

The GB Minutes from the December 22nd meeting had been previously distributed and reviewed. Dave moved to approve the minutes as written. Bob seconded. Unanimously approved. No opposition and no abstentions.

Bob said December's statement was sent out. Identified offerings in December were lower than he expected. Snow removal costs were higher than expected/budgeted. Dave said thank God for the PPP. He thought that Charlie was going to check with our bank as to the application. Kim said she's expecting an update tomorrow, as a release of information for all applicants is expected on 1/13.

Bob said GPC sent a \$250. donation to the MLK breakfast. We would have attended the breakfast in person but all the speakers are online this year. Rev Doug said the donation came from the discretionary fund and informs the community that we're supporters of human rights and GPC is still here.

Dennis said we're \$713. negative which is quite remarkable given the incredible challenges of this year. Everybody working together, Finance – Stewardship – Trustees, have done a tremendous job in meeting our bills. A remarkable feat, indeed!

Dennis had an update regarding the Boy Scouts. He spoke with John Atlas and was informed the Scouts are leaving to go to St. Christopher's on West Mt. Street. They've been at GPC for 22 years. John said it's going to take some time to get their gear out of the attic/closets. Dennis suggested end of March. John asked for the end of April due to no storage yet where they're going and the winter weather. Dennis said no later than April 30, 2021 is the final deadline for the gear removal. John affirmed that the Scouts have a new bank account and will not be using the GPC tax ID. Dave said we should ask for proof that account is, in fact, closed. He added that our tax exempt was renewed a couple of years ago. Kim said the concern is if he used the ST-5 and gave it to stores (Walmart, BJ's, etc.) to have on file, he could still technically use it until it expires.

Dave said the Cub Scouts and the Girl Scouts are staying at GPC. He thinks the GB should be able to ask them for proof that everyone working with youth are CORI'd. Dennis said they can certainly be asked to show a letter that all adults have had a Background Record Check when meetings start up again.

Dave would like to ask the Food Pantry Angels for a monthly update of numbers served and costs. Bob said they haven't been buying as much at Price Chopper. Kim said early in the pandemic, March – May, the Food Pantry had fewer patrons. Joyce Smith gave several nonperishable items

that were close to expiration to Mustard Seed as they couldn't get it off the shelves. Dennis added that Food Hub has been very busy as he's seen the traffic in the parking lot. Dave wondered if the Food Hub traffic is inhibiting the Food Pantry clientele. Dennis will send an email to Joyce Smith.

Dave said he talked to Russ Vickstrom about Food Hub's contract. Shon Rainford had it looked at by his attorney and already signed it, so there's a new contract for this year. Dennis said Russ saw a video Shon made on FaceBook about a new location in Union Station. It may not be that he's leaving GPC for a new location but that Food Hub is growing and needs an additional kitchen/retail space. Dave will ask him the next time he sees Shon.

Dennis said Diane Trippi asked about a wedding being planned in September for 50 or so people. No other services are needed. We would charge for the rental space, the wedding coordinator fee, and the custodian (no music or food). Dave said we've had a discussion about this a few months ago. We're closed. The governor still has restrictions of no more than 10 people in gatherings. That hasn't changed and we can't forecast what the fall will be like.

Lyn said we agreed that we would revisit this subject month by month. She agreed with Dave that we just don't know today for September. Charlie said we said we weren't going to talk about this until March. Dennis said the answer is no now and we'll revisit it at our April GB meeting. That would give the couple/family at least six months to find a venue. Lyn said we need to encourage them to look for an alternate venue now since we're not open. Kim asked if it was a GPC member. Dennis said it is not but an external inquiry. Unanimous agreement that we do not know what the landscape will be in the fall and the answer is no since we're currently closed.

Dennis asked how are the virtual services going? Everyone LOVES Rev Doug's sermons. Bill Hackett is still looking for additional support/volunteers for greetings/announcements. He currently has readers for the rest of the month. Kim said the deacons haven't met in the last month or so. Charlie suggested contacting Bill and calling a diaconate meeting that Rev Doug can join. Kim will email Bill about the next meeting.

Dennis thought it would be nice if Carolina could make the GPC sanctuary the backdrop for his sermon and maybe even communion. Lyn said you can buy a greenscreen on Amazon. Charlie said there's one there for \$80. Rev Doug will ask Carolina how she would like to proceed.

Dennis thought it was a different sound with the blend of Annie's own voice recording with her actual playing and singing. Lyn hopes that other choir members will step up and join Annie. Dennis suggested reaching out to other choir members to join Annie.

We will continue virtual services at least through March and re-evaluate then relative to personal safety.

Dennis thanked Lyn for gathering all the team's reports and the final documents were then sent to Karen Allen. She printed all of the collated documents and prepared for mailing. Dennis and a few volunteers will help address the envelopes and get them over to the post office on Thursday so they're mailed out ten days ahead of the meeting. There are explicit directions to complete the ballot and hopefully everyone will vote and respond in the appropriate timelines. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for 1/31 immediately following the virtual service at 11 a.m.

Dennis could tell, in talking to Carolina yesterday, that something was wrong in her voice. She's feeling overwhelmed by the many requests asked of her but her primary, 20-hour-a-week responsibility is the virtual service, the weekly bulletin and email blasts. She wants to help whomever asks but she has a finite, part-time schedule. Dennis will publish a note in the weekly eblast that Carolina is not the secretary nor administrative assistant. She's the Communications Coordinator and people need to be reminded of her role. Lyn inquired what are the demands people are asking of her? Dennis thought it may be related to communication such as FaceBook or technology but it's not her job to accommodate everyone's technological issues. Lyn said that Carolina may need to set some boundaries with people. She can't be responsible for troubleshooting everyone's FB settings challenges or incompatible technology. Bob reviewed the draft letter to be sent to Carolina that Dennis prepared for the GB review and asked about the intent behind some verbiage. Dennis took the feedback for a final draft.

Rev Doug said he met with Annie and Carolina today. He counseled that working in a church means you often have to teach people how to treat you. The first time you do something for someone it's a favor. The second time it's an expectation. The third time it's an obligation. It's about affirming boundaries.

Carolina called Rev Doug out for answering emails on a Friday since the GPC office is closed that day. She said this boundary breach muddies the water for people. Rev Doug said he has license, as the pastor, to have flexibility, in a virtual world, to respond as he deems appropriate. He encouraged her to utilize him as a buffer and the GB as counsel, as needed, regarding any issues or concerns she has regarding her time or otherwise.

Charlie said only a summary of the proposed budget is included in the Annual Meeting documents mailing. Dave asked for the full proposed budget to be sent to the GB. He will be before the next GB meeting.

Charlie said there's going to be a lot of paperwork changing payroll. We're migrating from ADP to Brotherhood Mutual/Ministry Works hopefully in February. This will be about a \$30. savings each payroll period or about \$80. month. They'll also publish the W-2. Toby Bishop had recommended this payroll company. They only do payroll for churches.

Lyn made a motion to conclude this meeting. Bob seconded. Unanimous approval to end.

The regular monthly Governing Board meeting will be a Zoom conference scheduled for Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 7 p.m. The next Interim Governing Board meeting is a Zoom conference call scheduled for Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Paré, Clerk