

Orinda Community Church
Minutes of Church Council
Wednesday, September 27, 2017

Council Attendance: Gail Mead, Lani Shepp, Kathleen Wiegand, Dave Hoppock, Bob Winbigler, Kurt Sunderbruch

Clergy Attending: Jim Brommers Bergquist

Ministry Chairs Attending: None

Minutes: The 8/23/17 minutes were approved unanimously by email on 9/4/17

Moderator's Report: The Council approved John Skidgel to be on the AP Search Committee, bringing the total to seven people. Gail is working on the Fall Fun(d) Fest and Auction and will advise Dagmar of its official title. The fence behind the TOPS play area needs to be rebuilt and the home owners have asked if we are willing to pay half the repair/sealing costs of \$11,000. The repairs would be made in segments during long weekends and holidays to avoid major disruption to the school. Gail will check with contractor Chris Rieser to see if the fence cost estimate is reasonable.

At-Large Member Reports: Dave reported that we have 15 reservations for the Yosemite trip in October. His database can produce lists of "event" dates for a variety of purposes. Gail stated that Pete Hartdegen is very pleased with the work done by Chris Rieser in the TOPS space. Chris recommended installing a small room air conditioner vented to the outside to help cool the space and this is working well. Pete has a list of ideas he'd like to talk over with Chris and Bob. It's probably a good idea to put Chris on a monthly retainer. He'd assess and manage facility projects. We are grateful for all the facility projects that have been done by Pete, John, Les, and Mike.

Treasurer's Report: Fixed one of the furnaces recently. Working on a maintenance contract for the big furnaces (below sanctuary) that are old. Lani is working on the 2018 budget. She'll send out a preliminary budget to the Council before it goes to Dixon.

FOCUS: Summit Meeting: Mike Kersten and Karl Schonborn are filling in for Katrina on LL&S. Gail reviewed the report from Worship and Music. Its major pieces are being taken care of. Gail will ask Bill Abriel (co-chair) if he can take over coordinating the communion preparation. In response to questions raised on the W&M report, Gail mentioned our change in bylaws and structure hasn't made much difference in getting people involved in activities to promote the quality of the church and help run it. The ministry model was designed to help people identify their passions and pursue them for the church. We need to improve communications. When the ministries do something, they need to tell people. We can do this via quarterly eblasts on ministry

accomplishments—advise people on ways they can get involved and help out. Gail will ask the ministries to submit information to Dagmar for eblasts. We could also do some forums in the spring. Mercy and Justice is doing well, with the accompaniment team actively supporting our immigrant family as well as plans for a Muslim Panel discussion, Walnut Creek Crop Walk, and upcoming Contra Costa Food Bank.

Senior Minister Report: Jim was notified that OCC is one of five beneficiaries of a trust fund and has been requested to send a letter agreeing to liquidate the trust in 2017. The Council moved and approved sending the letter. We're changing the order of worship on Sundays. Announcements will be right after the time with children so there is more time for prayer after the sermon. This year, we'll try doing the Advent celebration with St. Mark's. Kelsey's situation is evolving. She met with her committee in Washington that has concerns with calling her to a short term call. She meets with them again in December. In the meantime, we need to try to get close to the conference pay guidelines for her staff position. The Council moved and approved a salary for her of \$3000 a month as of October 1.

Executive Sessions: The Council voted and agreed to go into two, separate closed executive sessions to discuss matters that would violate the privacy of individuals if discussed in an open meeting.

New Matters:

- Gail—advise Dagmar of official name of the upcoming auction
- Gail—get an estimate from Chris Rieser on the TOPS/neighbor fence
- Gail—set up a meeting with Pete, Bob, and Chris Rieser to discuss facility projects
- Gail—ask Bill Abriel if he can take over as Communion Preparer Coordinator
- Gail—advise the ministries to write items for Dagmar for eblasts informing congregants of ministry accomplishments and options on how to get involved in church activities

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 25, 2017; 7:00 pm; library

Kathleen Wiegand, Clerk