**Orinda Community Church**

**Minutes of Church Council  
Wednesday, Apr 27, 2022**

**Council Attendance:** Anne Barr, Bill Abriel, Lani Shepp, Kathleen Wiegand, Gail Mead, Mitch Breitwieser

**Clergy Attending:** Elizabeth Robinson

**Staff Attendees:** Tom Norris, Karen Norris

**Minutes:** The 3/23/22 minutes were approved by email on 3/28/22

**Pastor’s Report:** Elizabeth Robinson reported we had a positive Easter season with extra services that were very meaningful. There are more people coming to the additional services. We need to work on some visioning and planning for the annual lecture for next year. Alta Mesa has had a year of meetings; these allow exposure to our church. David Milnes has decided not to activate the choir right now. While he is away in June the handbell choir will ring on June 5, and Pete Hartdegen’s Dixieland band will play on June 12. Barry Cammer has started the new grief support group and is doing a great job. The group members are attending each others’ memorials to be present for each other. Elizabeth has worked with 20 people on memorials in the last year and a half. There are funds for eight substitute preachers to help provide recovery time for her from the significant emotional and spiritual resources used in planning the memorials. She will take some time off next week and Lee Cruise and Kurt Sunderbruch will cover the next sermons. The church is starting to come out of its dormant (Covid) phase with people helping people. We are taking care of each other.

**Treasurer’s Update:** Lani Shepp will put out a reminder in late May for folks to continue to pay their pledges throughout the year to fund ongoing expenses. One of our FH refrigerators quit; should we replace it? Tom Norris suggested changing the oven pilot light to make it easier to handle. The stovetop has been rewired/repaired. The Council moved and approved spending up to $1000 on a new refrigerator (no freezer needed) and obtaining a new electric pilot starter for the oven. Lani is expecting to get a painting bid from Andy Weber’s contractor this week; could be about $90,000. This is a huge chunk of our Next 80 funds. It is up to Next 80 to manage this; Council trusts in Next 80 to have a budget discussion on whether or not to pay $90,000 for the painting. The Council moved and approved authorizing Next 80 to go ahead with this painting contractor if Next 80 approves it. Lani also reported we have one account with $10,000 in it named Women’s Initiative. The funds are from an individual donation.

**Youth & Family Next Steps:** Anne Barr mentioned we are ready to post the job description for Y&F. Elizabeth Robinson will help with the postings (conference, PSR, seminaries). Mary Volmer will help post at St Mary’s. Per Lani Shepp, we are fine budget-wise for this year but we’ll need to look to next year to make sure we can continue to fund the position after this year. We’ll post and see what the interest is. If we find someone we’ll need to determine what to pay them. Gail Mead will help organize those needing to be fingerprinted via a livescan registered service.

**Staffing Updates:** Starting in August when Marcel McLain leaves for graduate school how will we handle our overall site supervisor support? We decided to have a subcommittee of Lani Shepp, Gail Mead, and Elizabeth Robinson brainstorm this issue and present some options to cover our custodial, caretaker, security needs.

**Green Team Update:** Nancy Thursby mentioned the Green Team is now called the Creation Justice (CJ) Committee to reflect its wider range of responsibilities. For Earth Month (April) CJ staffed a table at Sunday services. They had IPL post cards where voters pledged to check out if candidates supported CJ ideas. They had copies of the National Climate Prayer and information on MCE for Orinda. Elizabeth Robinson did an awesome job for Creation Sunday. Things in the works include a Good Table UCC workday; a field trip to Ruth Bancroft Botanical Garden; a Rights of Nature film second hour; an Electric Vehicle Show; a Creation Justice Table; and waste management re-education. Nancy has set up new waste containers in the Fellowship Hall (old ones disappeared). Anne Barr thanked Nancy for the ton of work CJ has done; Nancy’s energy is inspirational.

**Sponsor Ukrainian Refugees:** Gail Mead forwarded information to Elizabeth Robinson that Homeland Security is soliciting people to sponsor Ukrainian refugees. Elizabeth thought we might want to use the cottage as transitional housing for them. Support means housing, food, and covering expenses for several months, possibly up to four years. A four-year commitment could be a huge financial obligation for us. After the cottage comes down some congregants may be able to offer other housing. Maybe we need to find another organization that’s more for transitional, shorter term housing needs. We agreed M&J should spearhead this and bring it back to the Council. There might be other congregants that want to help M&J on this. Gail Mead will present this idea to M&J to pursue. Bill Abriel will check with Vangie Abriel to see if she can help.

**At-Large Member Reports:** Mitch Breitwieser mentioned Barry Cammer hosted a Lifelong Learning discussion on Sunday and Mitch met with Barry today on his ideas for turning LL into something new. Good things are coming.

**New Business:** Anne Barr will ask Karen Sanford for an M&J report at the May or June Council meeting. LL might have something to report by June. The May Council meeting will be on Monday 5/23, not Wednesday 5/25.

**ACTIONS:**

Lani—do May reminder for folks to continue sending in their pledge money

Elizabeth—post the Y&F job position

Gail—organize fingerprinting for the Y&F group

Lani/Gail/Elizabeth—determine/present options for our ongoing custodial/security needs

Gail—present sponsoring Ukrainian refugees idea to M&J to pursue

Bill—ask Vangie for help with sponsoring Ukrainian refugees

Anne—check with Karen Sanford for an M&J report to Council in May or June

**Next Meeting: Monday, May 23, 2022; 7:00 pm (NOT May 25)**

Kathleen Wiegand, Clerk