**Orinda Community Church**

**Minutes of Church Council
Wednesday, August 23, 2023**

**Council Attendance:** Anne Barr, Bill Abriel, Lani Shepp, Kathleen Wiegand, Bob Winbigler, Gail Mead

**Clergy Attending:** Elizabeth Robinson

**Staff Attendees:** Tre Frane, Mike Kersten

**Minutes:** The 6/28/23 minutes were approved by email on 7/5/23 (No July meeting)

**Pastor’s Report:** Rev. Elizabeth Robinson is working with M&J and LL&S on programming (e.g. studying poverty in America). Bill Abriel will do a spiritual journey second hour. Homecoming is 9/17. 8/27 marks 25 years David Milnes has been with the church. Elizabeth continues to work with Sie Chambers on providing Our Whole Lives training for church and Holden youth. Ava Skidgel will speak in church this Sunday on her trip to Panama. Our article about pride flags being stolen has gained community attention and the police will help keep watch. This is good news and will help us make alliances with the community. Elizabeth will meet with PFLAG in October to discuss working together to create a safer space in Orinda. While parking lot issues continue our new strategy of vividly colored notices duct-taped on cars in our handicapped spots seems to be working. Sean has changed the lock on the door to our dumpster to see if the illegal dumping stops. We may also post cameras. We need to clarify for Anna Gregory who to call for unexpected campus situations/emergencies (cleaning staff vs. the new OSV emergency contacts). Elizabeth has given Lucina and Lucas until mid September to vacate the cottage. The Council supports this deadline. There may be a memorial for Bob Orr; his son will visit OCC this Sunday. Sandra Hill’s son David will plan a small interment service and reception in her honor.

**Treasurer’s Update:** Lani Shepp recently paid for Mary Volmer’s Alta Mesa expenses. The Endowment Board donated a very generous $3,000 for the Hawaii wildfires. Pledges are on target. We should send out September reminders to anyone with money left to pay on their pledge.

**Stewardship:** Bill Abriel reported our next round will start in mid September with a goal similar to prior years. He suggested using a theme (perhaps “hope”) to stimulate support. He will be part of the current Strategic Planning process.

**Auction:** Per Lani Shepp, our budget goal is to raise $20,000 this year. Gail Mead will run the online auction but needs others to get donations and inspire the congregation. It’s fairly easy to get local businesses to donate free stuff. The dinners and vacation spots bring in a lot of money. We should think about a theme. Elizabeth Robinson suggested Sunday, 10/29, for the final day of the auction, which would start online on Monday, 10/23. Anne Barr will make a church announcement over the Labor Day weekend asking for someone to help gather the donations.

**Finance Office/Asst Treasurer:** Anne Barr relayed that Kathi Kling would like to transition out of her role as assistant treasurer. Kathi does payroll and reconciling expenses and we could hire someone to do part of that work. Gail Mead manages incoming receipts and Lani does the budget and check writing. Lani would like to shift into financial planning. Our Finance and Operations Chair has been vacant for awhile, but if filled, could do the budget. So the recommendation tonight is to hire a bookkeeper for more hours in 2024 and forward, and solicit at least one additional volunteer from the congregation, perhaps with a finance or business background, as Finance Chair. The tasks aren’t onerous—just a couple of hours a week.

**Open Volunteer Roles:** Per Anne Barr, we are looking for a Vice Moderator and an OSV Board member. We should also now include a Finance Chair. We discussed various possibilities. Elizabeth Robinson will reach out regarding the OSV Board vacancy. Lani will reach out regarding the Finance Chair vacancy. We have a volunteer for the Clerk vacancy, but still need to find someone for the Vice Moderator vacancy.

**B&G Update:** Per Bill Abriel, Tom Norris has refreshed the list of church projects. There are no serious changes on the list; some of the work has been done.

**Next 80:** Lani Shepp reported she has started the process for buying our solar panels. We have to pay for the panels by November 4. Endowment has authorized $10,000 toward this and Next 80 funds will cover the rest. We have bids from two companies to fix broken clay pipes in our sewer system. This needs more discussion with Next 80. Our bell sign is leaning and needs to be braced; Greg Hartdegen should be able to handle this. If a job is under $500, Anna Gregory may call Greg to do the work but she should keep Tom Norris in the loop.

**At-Large Member Reports:** Gail Mead indicated M&J has put a lot of activities on the church calendar and has included them in church notices to the congregation.

**ACTIONS:**

Elizabeth-clarify for Anna who to call for unexpected situations (cleaners vs. emergency contacts)

Elizabeth-reach out regarding the OSV Board vacancy

Lani-reach out regarding Finance Chair vacancy

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 27, 2023; 7:00 pm

Kathleen Wiegand, Clerk