**Orinda Community Church**

**Minutes of Church Council
Monday, December 18, 2023**

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

**Clergy Attending:** Elizabeth Robinson

**Minutes:** The 11/8/23 minutes were approved by email on 11/14/23

**Pastor’s Report:** Per Rev. Elizabeth Robinson, Jurgin Schwaing, a chaplain for Kaiser, would like to become a member of our church to retain his commission as a chaplain. His UCC church in Berkeley recently closed and his 4-way covenant requires him to be a member of a church. He’s been attending our weekly centering prayer sessions. Council moved and approved a four-way covenant with him. Elizabeth will set up a Sunday for the congregation to accept him as a member. People are contacting Elizabeth about her sabbatical. We need to get a committee together. Elizabeth will check with the Conference regarding payment. We have some good candidates. Elizabeth will have more conversation with a woman who would like to offer an elder-friendly yoga class at our church. Due to our non-profit status it may be more advantageous to teach the class at the community center.

**Treasurer’s Budget Update:** Lani Shepp explained as of the end of November we’ve received only 80% of what we’re due in pledges for 2023. We’re $70,000 short for the year. Gail Mead sent out pledge status letters and some money is coming in. Lani continues to work on the 2024 budget. Endowment will help fund the temp replacement for the sabbatical. We’re $33,000 short even with Endowment’s help but we’ll have cash flow at the end of the year. We won’t have money for support staff unless we fundraise.

**Next Steps-Vista Verde Construction Easement:** Per Anne Barr, John Wyro from the
OSV/OSHF Board is willing to provide a 5-10 minute report at Council meetings next year to keep us up-to-date on the Vista Verde construction. The Moderator will have to invite him to the meetings. The Vista Verde engineering team conducted a soil study for the project plans and identified the need to reinforce existing retaining walls on OCC property. OSHF is requesting that OCC agree to a construction easement in order to reinforce the soil to support the whole project. The easement request is for the driveway behind the Fellowship Hall which is proposed to be boarded off during construction. The easement will also impact TOPS. Anne Barr and Bill Abriel will meet with TOPS this Friday to discuss the easement. The Council moved and approved empowering Anne and Bill to move forward to negotiate the easement for construction on our property behind the Fellowship Hall and bring it back to Council for a final vote.

**Vice Moderator’s Report:** Bill Abriel reported a difference of opinion with Luis (OSV)
over his afterhours call duties for our church. It does not seem that we have a fit with his goals and what the church needs. Anne Barr will notify him of our plans to terminate the on call agreement for emergency services. Anne will also see if he wants to continue with the weekday set up and take down duties. Lani Shepp will figure out what to pay him for November and December.

**ACTIONS:**

Elizabeth-set up a Sunday for congregation to accept membership of Jurgin Schwaing

Elizabeth-check with the Conference about sabbatical payment

Elizabeth-continue talks with woman regarding yoga class at OCC

Anne/Bill-meet with TOPS on 12/22/23 to discuss the easement

Anne/Bill-move forward to negotiate construction easement with OSHF

Lani-pay Luis (OSV) for his November and December work

Anne-notify Luis of plan to terminate on call agreement for emergency services and see if he wants to continue with weekday set up/take down duties

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 10, 2024; 7:00 pm

Kathleen Wiegand, Clerk