**Orinda Community Church**

**Minutes of Church Council
Wednesday, January 24, 2024**

**Council Attendance:** Bill Abriel, Lani Shepp, Bob Winbigler, Mike Kersten, Robin Holmes

Council Absent: Gail Mead, Amy Parlett

**Clergy Attending:** Elizabeth Robinson

The meeting convened at 7:02 pm.

**Minutes:** None to approve.

**Pastor’s Report:** Elizabeth discussed upcoming church dates:

Sunday, January 28 will be the Quaker Dialog on the Palestine/Israel situation.

Sunday, February 11, Kurt Sunderbruch will be the guest pastor and Lani Shepp will give an orientation for Winter Nights volunteers.

Wednesday, February 14 at 10 am is the Ash Wednesday observance in the church chapel. Lenten devotionals are on order and will be available to those who wish.

A local UCC church sought out a neutral pulpit for a pastor candidate and Elizabeth was pleased to offer ours. Sunday, February 25 will see a guest pastor in the pulpit. Discussion about a stipend occurred but it was explained that this is essentially a job interview and no payment is required.

Elizabeth discussed the Lifelong Learning (Mitch Breitwieser) and Mercy & Justice (Karen Sanford and Nancy Thursby) committees.

The Kensington church, led by Rev. Barry Cammer, is active in meeting a challenge grant for the Black Housing Project and asked OCC to mount a challenge to members to raise $20K. Elizabeth expressed that OCC would not meet it, but could offer the opportunity to members to donate.

Elizabeth is planning her sabbatical, with the first month, May, in New Zealand. Lani stressed that during this sabbatical everyone must be aware that she will be **UNREACHABLE** the entire 3 months.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Lani Shepp explained that OCC is still short on pledges for 2024. With Gail Mead’s work, more pledges have arrived, and several from folks who have never pledged before. Lani discussed the difficulties the participating church is having finding volunteers for the extra 2 weeks that OCC is hosting. Elizabeth encouraged her to reach out to the Winter Nights organization to remedy the situation.

**Moderator’s Report:**

Vista Verde Project: Discussed the easement issue that will impact TOPS. Discussed the implications of tax obligations and it was decided to obtain legal assistance.

Sabbatical Planning: The process for identifying an interim pastor is underway and a contract is expected to be signed by March. Committee leaders will take the lead for their respective activities.

Building & Grounds: A substantial HVAC system upgrade is required. Two Troop 237 Eagle Scouts candidates are proposing projects that involve replacing failing wood retaining walls with moss rock walls along the sanctuary patio and the entrance to the maintenance room under the Mayflower building.

Motion: Lani Shepp moved to allocate up to $1000 from the OCC Scout fund (designated to assist Eagle Scout projects) for two projects. Mike Kersten seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Vice Moderator’s Report:** None

**ACTIONS:**

Mike Kersten will discuss the Eagle Scout funding opportunity with the Troop 237 Council.

Bill Abriel will participate in the discussion on tax implications with the Vista Verde project.

Bill Abriel and committee will continue with identifying and contracting the interim pastor.

Robin Holmes made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Bill Abriel seconded.

Meeting Adjourned 8:39 pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 28, 2024; 7:00 pm via ZOOM.

Respectfully submitted, Robin Holmes, Clerk