**Orinda Community Church**

**Minutes of Church Council  
Wednesday, July 28, 2021**

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

**Clergy Attending:** Elizabeth Robinson

**Staff Attendees:** David Milnes

**Minutes:** The 6/23/21 minutes were approved by email on 6/27/21

**Pastor’s Report:** Elizabeth Robinson reported our new office administrator, Anna Gregory, is delightful, works hard, and makes our community a better place. There are memorials scheduled on 8/21 for Scott Walker and Debbie Barnell. Elizabeth is negotiating with an independent film company to film in our narthex (for a fee). Camp Brainy Bunch is winding up and has been a good source of revenue for us. They have been very accommodating and collaborative. The kids can be noisy and we may need to separate their athletic activities more from the Holden campus in future years. Leslie O’Brien is doing a lot of work with youth and it’s having a good affect on the children and drawing them closer to our community. Elizabeth is encouraged with people returning to our church. We’re making ourselves welcoming.

**Revisiting Covid Guidance:** Per Elizabeth Robinson we are now wearing masks inside and have altered the Sunday service. The youth will sit up in choir loft. We won’t continue the passing of the peace; people can do this on their way outside where they can remove their masks, if desired. David Milnes will do a test run this week of our streaming services and expects it to be fully operational.

**Dion’s Moving On:** Per Elizabeth Robinson we’ll have an August 8 Service of Release for Dion Maskaleris whose last official day is 8/15/21. It will be primarily a musical service and will include hymns he’s selected. Leslie O’Brien will say an appreciation. Dion will make a short speech. Refreshments are planned. Kurt Sunderbruch mentioned we’re moving forward on creating/reviewing a caretaker job description (20 hours). We need to plan for Sunday set up and tear down starting mid-August. Kurt and Elizabeth will collaborate with Staffing & Personnel on this.

**OSHF Update:** OSHF needs a date/time to do an OSHF update for the congregation/TOPS. It would be informational with Qs and As. Anne Barr will check with Victoria Smith to see if OSHF prefers an in-person or a virtual (Zoom) session. Possible dates are 8/15, 8/22 or 8/29.

**Treasurer’s Update:** Lani Shepp reported her 6-month review had no surprises. Loose offerings income for the year is at 113.8% of what we budgeted. Overall income is at 54.6%. Pledge income at 51%. Expenses are at 46%. There is money for custodial costs to get us through the end of the year.

**Next 80 Update:** Lani Shepp reported we put the $29,450 received in cash for Next 80 into a new bank account. Pledges are at $155,950. As pledge money comes in it will go into the Next 80 bank account. The painting project on the Mayflower/Washington building is going slowly and carefully. We’re in the process of determining how bad a subsidence problem we might have on our campus. Gail Mead is checking with Cal Engineering in Walnut Creek for a person who can look at our buildings/hillside and soil.

**Alta Mesa Speaker Update:** Mary Volmer reported Natalie Baszile is our speaker for the inaugural Alta Mesa endowed lecture. Natalie wrote a book on black farmers throughout the U.S. (*We Are Each Other’s Harvest*). We discussed possible dates for this event and selected Sunday 3/20/22, 4:00 pm. Mary confirmed this date/time with Natalie shortly after the Council meeting ended. The lecture will be in our sanctuary. Endowment will pay the speaker fee. We will ask for donations from attendees. We can live-stream the lecture if Natalie approves. Our next Alta Mesa reading (via Zoom and then posted to Alta Mesa YouTube) will be on 8/8 to benefit Mutual Aid Myanmar. The readers will be poet Maw Shein Win and author Kenneth Wong. We’re working to link to the Alta Mesa lectures from our OCC website.

**Endowment Update:** Elizabeth Robinson may take a break on house shopping for a while—not much on the market for her right now. Anne Barr and Mary Volmer will meet to figure out the business plan for Endowment to fund Alta Mesa. Anne, Mary, Gail Mead and Kathi Kling will talk on Sunday about where Alta Mesa fits into our church ministries (e.g. perhaps under LL&S).

**Vice Moderator’s Report:** Anne Barr will have each ministry/committee provide Fellowship Hour refreshments for a month starting with September. PRC is taking August. Gail Mead mentioned there’s a program that can generate reminders for this type of assignment. Once Dion moves on in mid-August, the group providing refreshments will also make the coffee, provide pitchers of water, and do the set up and clean up for the refreshments. Lani Shepp will write up the instructions for this (done). Elizabeth Robinson will open the FH so the group can access the kitchen.

**ACTIONS:**

Elizabeth & Kurt – collaborate with S&P on custodian job description and Sunday set up and tear down once Dion moves on

Anne - check with Victoria Smith on date for OSHF update (Aug 15, 22, or 29)

Anne - meet with Mary Volmer on business plan for Endowment to fund Alta Mesa

Anne, Gail - talk with Mary Volmer and Kathi Kling about Alta Mesa issues

Anne – Ask ministries/committees to provide Fellowship Hour refreshments

Elizabeth – Starting mid-August, open FH for those doing refreshments

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 25, 2021; 7:00 pm

Kathleen Wiegand, Clerk