**Orinda Community Church**

**Minutes of Church Council  
Wednesday, June 22, 2022**

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

**Clergy Attending:** Elizabeth Robinson

**Agenda Attendees:** Karen Sanford, Nancy Thursby

**Minutes:** The 5/23/22 minutes were approved by email on 5/30/22

**Pastor’s Report:** Rev. Elizabeth Robinson has identified someone to lead Lifelong Learning and Spirituality, but the person has other church commitments and there needs to be more discussion as to whether and how this will all work out. She has informed Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity (IMHI) that we have transitional housing available (cottage) but we can’t do case management. IMHI indicated they can use our space and will find case management, if needed. Elizabeth wants to move forward on this because there are so many immigrants with a constant need. We would need to make sure IMHI will handle having the cottage vacated when needed due to our Hillside project. We need a written agreement with them. Elizabeth will talk to Marcel McLain about his exact exit date. Gail Mead will research the bylaws about leasing church property (cottage).

We are trying to get the mandated reporter training/fingerprinting going for Elisabeth Kersten’s youth program in August. Volunteers can get a paper from Anna to cover some of the costs and should get this done. All employees must be fingerprinted except contract employees (cleaners, etc.). A cub scout troop has asked to meet at church once a month (aren’t asking to charter). We can do this as a regular rental (that obligates them to be compliant with AB506). The Music Association that has been renting our piano wants to purchase a new grand piano. David Milnes feels good about this. We could sell the old one. Elizabeth mentioned we should think ahead to our next annual lecture. She wants to pursue a speaker on gun control; we need to find a small committee to work on this. We might want to partner with another congregation and do a community push. She wants to also schedule a second hour on gun buy backs. Alta Mesa continues on. We will have an in-person second hour on 7/10 for Next 80 to update the congregation on infrastructure. We can live stream it, too, and those folks can text their questions to Elizabeth during the program for the committee’s response.

Elizabeth is talking with PRC about visioning and reckoning with all the changes in the church. Will discuss this further.

**Mercy & Justice:** Karen Sanford reported M&J has been busy. The Easter offering of over $1600 was split among two food banks and another charity. We will donate this offering to just one charity from now on due to bookkeeping issues. The sock and belt drive was successful. TOPS saw this and asked to join in with us on a similar drive. The veggie sales are still going on for food bank donations. We raised $800 very quickly for our Common Hope house (added to the $1000 from M&J). We’ve committed to donating $1800 every year for a Common Hope house. The backpack drive is happening again and runs until 7/15. We now donate online instead of sending in checks to the office. M&J is trying to get speakers on important topics and do second hours. The goal for next year is to create service projects for the church. They want to do a multi-generation trip to Common Hope next year.

**Staffing Updates:** Per Anne Barr, Barry Cammer has requested to return to retirement at the end of June. He’ll continue to support Elizabeth Robinson and our church on an ad hoc basis (preach, advise, be on call). Per Elizabeth, he’ll continue with the Grief Support Group through mid July.

**Children and Youth Update:** Elisabeth Kersten has volunteered to do a youth program in August. Anne Barr will set up reporter training on 7/11. We have posted the Children, Youth and Family Program Leader position in several places. PSR will continue to advertise we are interested in having an intern at our church.

**Plans for Grief Support Group:** Per Elizabeth Robinson, the group is growing and attracting non congregation people, too. There are about 12 people who attend. Some have acute loss and some have chronic loss. She is trying to figure out how to continue the group without Barry. It currently functions like a Quaker Circle where people listen but don’t offer advice. It isn’t a counseling session. The challenge is we’d have to pay someone to lead it. A retired minister might be good. Elizabeth feels it’s extremely important to continue this. If Elizabeth can find someone we’ll find a way to fund it. Making it twice a month instead of weekly may help us find a leader. We can also talk about grieving in some of our Sunday services.

**Vice Moderator’s Report:** Bill Abriel has reviewed our materials on the caretaker’s responsibilities and thinks we can feel comfortable with our inventory of the five caretaking task groups: Events Management, Interior Cleaners, Grounds, Security, and Maintenance. Under Security, the main thing we need is a security night check. He’ll start by talking to the Orinda police—we may be able to contract for this or get a lead on whom to contract with. Bill will talk to Kurt Sunderbruch and Tom Norris about locked door info. Under Maintenance, Pete Hartdegen’s son, Greg, may contract with us for handyman services. Bill will meet with Greg on 6/30 to discuss this. Lani Shepp will check on money available to pay a handyman. Under Events Management, we need someone for the weekend events, especially our Sunday services. We also need some backup for Anna during the week. Bill will talk to Greg Hartdegen to see if he’s interested in doing weekend events setup/tear down. Perhaps we can get a student for events management on weekends—there’s lots of advance notice for these events. On Sunday we need someone to open/lock up the church, and handle the coffee and refreshment tables. Elizabeth said she can do open/lock up because she’s there early/late on Sundays. But we need backup for when she’s away. Bill will talk to Elizabeth and Anna about events management necessities for week days and weekends.

**New Business:** Anne Barr, Fred Matteson, Lani Shepp, and Bill Abriel will review Tom Norris’ 6/20/22 task list next week (Zoom).

The Council Clerk is unavailable on 9/28/22 so the September Council meeting will be moved up a week to Wednesday 9/21.

**ACTIONS:**

Gail-research bylaws about leasing church property (cottage)

Anne-set up reporter training on 7/11

Bill-talk to Orinda police re: security night checks

Bill-talk to Kurt Sunderbruch and Tom Norris about info on locked doors

Bill-talk to Greg Hartdegen about handyman services and doing weekend events set up/tear down

Bill-talk to Elizabeth and Anna about events mgmt necessities

Lani-check on money for a handyman

Anne-meet with Fred, Lani, and Bill on Tom Norris’ task list

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 27, 2022; 7:00 pm

Kathleen Wiegand, Clerk