**Orinda Community Church**

**Minutes of Church Council
Wednesday, June 28, 2023**

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

**Clergy Attending:** Elizabeth Robinson

**Attendees:** Mike Kersten, Tom Norris

**Minutes:** The 5/24/23 minutes were approved by email on 5/31/23. The 6/11/23 minutes were approved by email on 6/13/23

**Pastor’s Report:** Per Rev. Elizabeth Robinson, we’ll have guest preachers for the next two Sundays with a second hour on 7/9. Mercy and Justice has a lot of good activities planned (e.g., book discussion, Good Table visit, electric car show, and the Hope Solutions backpack drive). Elizabeth will be back from Sweden on 7/9. She hopes to do a blessing of the animals in the fall, including honoring deceased pets. She is talking with a recent OCC speaker, Sie Savage Chambers, about providing Our Whole Lives (OWL) sexuality education for our youth after he receives the training himself. He’d work with at least one other adult who’s received AB504 training. Elizabeth will invite him to take the OWL training. She’ll advise him of the OCC congregants who’ve had 504 training and ask him to reach out to them via email to find a second person to assist. She’ll also reach out to other campus ministers to see about a second person.

**Treasurer’s Update:** Lani Shepp mentioned the end of May report budget is coming in at 44% which is fine. She’ll do an eblast reminding folks to keep paying their pledges. TOPS wants to add a short, wooden-slat fence to keep their children corralled when they access their cubbies in front of the Mayflower Room. TOPS will pay for the fence. Lani will advise TOPS to email us the details and a fence picture for us to approve.

**Caretaker Duties Update:** Per Anne Barr, Gail Mead is working on a memo of understanding with OSV on how we can use their nighttime emergency preparedness person (independent contractor) for our campus. The memo will be from Elizabeth Robinson. There is also a separate agreement with the caretaker that covers obligations for daytime event set up/take down during the week. Anne will talk offline with Elizabeth about the MOU with OSV and how we’ll work together with the person. After Anne reviews the MOU the Council will need to review it and the caretaker contract and approve them.

**Strategic Plan Kickoff:** Anne Barr mentioned there was a planning kickoff for looking at the scope and benefit of doing more of a strategic plan. The general plan is to gather materials on current ministries and the membership pledging situation as background to work with the congregation this fall on what we want to be in the future. The team has just begun the process of what to look at. Lani Shepp will send the financial material to Gail Mead. One of the themes of putting the plan together is being sensitive to balancing taking on missions with remaining sustainable since we’re a smaller organization now than in the past. Our volunteers and minister are stretched thin; our expectations go beyond our resources. So how do we plan to be a sustainable community in God’s eyes? It’s a time of gathering information and moving forward with the congregation to a next steps phase in the fall.

**Council Engagement:** Bill Abriel discussed an idea to improve the flow of conversation between the congregation and the Council. Council members would be available during the refreshment time following Sunday services to chat with, take suggestions, or answer questions from the congregation. This could happen monthly to encourage interaction. Bill and Mitch Breitwieser will set up this program.

**B&G Update:** Bill Abriel reviewed projects B&G is considering for the summer. Some of the projects are under $500 and don’t need Council approval. Some of the projects need Council approval or a conversation with B&G and Next 80. One group of projects involves HVAC balancing that requires Council approval of $4300. Bill will set up a meeting with B&G, Tom Norris, Lani Shepp, and Bob Winbigler to decide on a plan for this work and then present it to the Council for approval.

**At-Large Member Reports:** Per Gail Mead, M&J and LL&S are working together on a fall speaker event (based on a book).

**ACTIONS:**

Elizabeth-invite Sie Chambers to take OWL training; ask him to recruit a second person from a list of our 504 trainees. Check with other campus ministers for a second person

Lani-advise TOPS to email us with details/image of the low fence they want to install

Anne-talk with Elizabeth about the MOU with OSV

Lani-send financial material for strategic planning to Gail

Bill/Mitch-set up monthly Council “office hours” program for Sunday refreshment time

Bill-set up B&G meeting to decide plan for HVAC balancing work for Council approval

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 26, 2023; 7:00 pm

Kathleen Wiegand, Clerk