**Orinda Community Church**

**Minutes of Church Council  
Wednesday, May 24, 2023**

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

**Clergy Attending:** Elizabeth Robinson

**Minutes:** The 4/26/23 minutes were approved by email on 5/2/23

**Pastor’s Report:** Rev. Elizabeth Robinson reported parking is taking up a lot of her time. OSV staff has asked about leasing six of our spots closest to OSV; something for us to consider (it would affect OCC/TOPS special events). OSV has 14 folks on their parking wait list. They are encouraging us to tow OSV cars in our spots and may tow their own people’s cars. The OSV caregivers are afraid to park in the lower lot but it’s a safe neighborhood and it shouldn’t be a problem. Anne Barr is considering what action Council should take on parking. Elizabeth also repeated her concerns that others (OSV residents and neighbors) are using our dumpster. We discussed making a covered, locked enclosure with a key pad. It’s difficult to put a camera in the current location and the dumpster location will move when hillside construction starts. Anne advised Elizabeth to transfer ownership of the parking and dumpster issues to Council. We don’t expect Elizabeth to solve these problems but she may need to field some of them. Council can investigate whether OSV has a code of conduct for their residents.

Elizabeth mentioned we need to find someone to fill in for Anna Gregory’s vacations. It’s budgeted for so we can use a temp agency. Elizabeth will check with Mary Volmer for a possible sub for Anna’s upcoming time off. Elizabeth is aware of a few congregants that are having difficulty hearing the Sunday services. Per Anne, Endowment is working to improve the video capability for the Fellowship Hall and may have funds to help improve the sanctuary sound system. Anne will refer this to Endowment.

Elizabeth has submitted an article to *The Orinda News* about the thefts of our pride flag. Flags have been stolen seven times over the past year and a half, but we won’t be deterred. Elizabeth is making presentations to local groups (Rotary, Boy Scouts, Women’s Club, and other churches) to help establish more connections with our community. She will volunteer with the Good Table on Saturday. Council moved and approved accepting Mary Volmer as our delegate to the Annual Meeting of the Northern California Nevada Conference of UCC, June 15-17, 2023. Elizabeth will inform Mary as well as John and Nancy Thursby who are unable to be delegates this year. Elizabeth attended the Mayor’s Interfaith Breakfast yesterday. The City is concerned about the mental health crisis with youth and is asking if churches can step in to provide wellness centers when the schools close for summer. We decided this year we could host a program (we have space and a central location) but would need funding to create and administer the program. Elizabeth will keep us posted.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Lani Shepp reported things are fine. Our pledge income is a bit behind compared to last year so she’ll do an announcement reminder about continuing to pay pledges throughout the summer.

**Strategic Plan-Next Steps:** Anne Barr will work on setting up a kickoff meeting with Gail Mead and Lani Shepp.

**Staffing-Care Taker:** Anne Barr met with Bill Abriel and Sean Barcelon (OSV) in April regarding three OCC needs: emergency services, set up/take down for special events, and nighttime lock checks. Sean suggested using some of the OSV staff to help us with these needs. An OSV resident, Luis Mendez, is on call 24/7 at OSV for emergency situations (e.g., plumbing trouble). He’s willing to do this for OCC, too ($150/month plus hourly fee once he initiates action). He’d start the process and find a way to get it fixed. We’ll work out the protocols but Anna Gregory (or others on campus) would be able to call Luis in an urgent situation. Luis and his assistant are also available to help with set up and takedown for special events. Anna would manage them for each event (will use time sheets). Some OSV people are interested in helping with our nighttime lock checks at $15/hour. Council moved and approved having Anne Barr, Bill Abriel, Lani Shepp and Gail Mead proceed on managing a contract with Luis Mendez for emergency services and event setup/take down. Council will continue to pursue handling nighttime lock checks with interested OSV residents.

**Open Volunteer Positions:** John Thursby recently resigned from the OSV/OSHF Board; this is a Council appointed position. After discussion, Council moved and approved nominating Leslie Dickson for the open OSV/OSHF Board position. Anne Barr will advise Leslie and the Board. Council is continuing to recruit for all open positions.

**By Laws Updates:** Bill Abriel reviewed the Governance Committee’s recommendations for bylaws revisions. The Governance Committee consists of Bill Abriel, Mike Kersten, Gail Mead, Roger Samuelsen, Kurt Sunderbruch, and Craig Taatjes. Revisions include the ability to terminate membership via a supermajority; updating communication methods; updating elected officer and council member terms; updating standing council committees’ duties/makeup; and updating OSV references to include OSHF. The Council moved and approved the recommended changes to the bylaws so they can be forwarded to the congregation for approval. The open and affirming statement is still under revision review. Bill Abriel will notify the Governance Committee of the Council’s approval. Anne Barr will work with Brian Shepp on an email announcing a Special Meeting on June 11 (after service, before Second Hour) for a congregational vote on approving the bylaws revisions. Email will have a PDF of new bylaws and notice that members can send their voting proxies to Kathleen Wiegand, Clerk, in writing or via email, prior to the vote, if they cannot attend the Special Meeting to vote in person.

**ACTIONS:**

Anne-consider what action Council should take on parking/dumpster issues; does OSV have a resident code of conduct?

Elizabeth-check with Mary V. for a sub for Anna G’s vacation time

Anne-refer updating sanctuary sound system to Endowment

Elizabeth-advise Mary V, Nancy/John T. of UCC Annual Meeting delegate status

Elizabeth-keep Council posted on possible wellness activities for youth over summer

Lani-do announcement reminder to pay pledges over the summer

Anne-set up kickoff meeting with Gail and Lani on strategic plan next steps

Anne-proceed on managing contract with Luis Mendez (OSV) for needed services

Anne-advise Leslie Dickson and OSV/OSHF Board of her appointment

Bill-notify Governance Committee of Council’s approval of bylaws revisions

Anne-advise congregation of Special Meeting on 6/11 to approve bylaws revisions

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 28, 2023; 7:00 pm

Kathleen Wiegand, Clerk