**Orinda Community Church**

**Minutes of Church Council  
Wednesday, September 27, 2023**

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

**Clergy Attending:** Elizabeth Robinson

**Attendees:** Mike Kersten, Joy Elkinton-Walker

**Minutes:** The 8/23/23 minutes were approved by email on 8/26/23

**Pastor’s Report:** Reverend Elizabeth Robinson relayed that a teenage student asked to practice on our sanctuary organ. After discussing the pros (serious musician; good for community relations) and cons (is 17 and can’t be held responsible as an adult; is untrained for our unique organ; isn’t a priority for us to oversee at this time) Elizabeth will advise the student that we are declining his request. She indicated a number of church windows are broken and need to be addressed. She’s alerted Tom Norris. Per Bill Abriel, B&G is determining the size of the problem. Anne Barr relayed Next 80 is looking at window replacement in the sanctuary. Elizabeth mentioned there is a school that wants to rent the Agape Center next year. Anne will speak with Holden High to see what hours they want to use it and whether this space can be shared between the two schools. Elizabeth will check with Anna Gregory to see if she wants to work more hours and advise Council. Elizabeth advised we need a community work day once a month to help clean up the church (sweep, clean windows/doorknobs, envelope stuffing, etc.). Perhaps M&J can help organize this work. Elizabeth talked to the Endowment Board about having Shane McRae, a Columbia University teacher, do a talk about his book on race issues. It would help to make this a collaborative effort with others in the community to help cover costs and publicity. Elizabeth will contact St Mary’s.

**Treasurer’s Update:** Lani Shepp asked for Council approval for up to $1000 for renovating the library furnace and up to $800 to replace the mechanics of two Fellowship Hall toilets The Council approved these costs. She also received Council authorization to purchase our solar panels in October at the listed price of $26,800 to come from Next 80 funds (Next 80 already approved).

**OSV Community Nominee:** Anne Barr confirmed OCC-nominated Leslie Dickson is now on the OSV Board. Council moved and approved OSV-nominated Kitty Guptill as an OSV Board member.

**Engagement Committee Launch and Strategic Plan Status:** Per Anne Barr, the Engagement Committee consists of Anne, Bill Abriel, Mitch Breitwieser, Karen Norris, and Mike Kersten. Bill is speaking to the committee members about finding the right people in the right roles to maintain church leadership and how to engage all members to maximize their experience with the church. He’ll be contacting ministry leaders to see if they’ll continue their terms. Anne and Bill will talk next week. Anne mentioned the strategic plan committee is running a bit behind and isn’t yet ready to speak to the congregation this fall.

**B&G Update:** Lani Shepp has scheduled a property tax assessor’s site visit on 10/11/23 for checking out the cottage and our use of it. Bill Abriel reported there was a B&G meeting last night and B&G will compile a broken window spreadsheet. Anne Barr visited Holden who’s requesting window work. They’d like an operable kitchen window; current one doesn’t open. This window goes through Holden and OCC so OCC will handle getting bids (Fred Matteson doing). Also, the windows on Holden’s south side where there are new plantings need to be emergency evacuation windows to use with a ladder. This is a complicated window situation/design issue. Fred will ask Andy Weber if he will do some consulting on this and help find a contractor. Holden understands it can’t move forward without church engagement on these custom, commercial windows. It’s a Next 80 cost.

**Security & Emergency Contact Procedures:** Per Anne Barr, we have an agreement with Luis (at OSV) to be our on-call resource for off-hours emergencies. During business hours Anna Gregory will be our first line of defense and she can call upon Luis at any time. After business hours we could set up a Comcast phone system to route emergency calls to Luis (and possibly Council, B&G, police) or advise callers to contact the church office during business hours for non emergencies. There will be a learning curve on this. Once determined, we could post the procedure on the church office door. Lani Shepp will talk to Anna about the payments to our emergency and set up/take down contacts; she needs W-9s. OSHF had to revise their tree plan and are doing final logistics and getting closer to Vista Verde groundbreaking.

**At-Large Member Reports:** Elizabeth Robinson mentioned M&J will set up a joint service on 10/15 with The Good Table, a sister UCC church that is engaged in an inspiring planting project.

**Vice Moderator’s Report:** Bill Abriel will handle getting an agreement in place for our new security folks from OSV so their evening security checks can start.

**Oct, Nov, Dec Council Meeting Schedule:** The October 25 Council meeting is canceled. The November Council meeting will be on 11/8 via Zoom (instead of 11/23 which is Thanksgiving). The December Council (holiday) meeting will be in person at Anne Barr’s house on 12/18. There will be a January 10 Council meeting. The Annual meeting will be on 1/21/24 or 1/28/24—to be decided.

**Executive Session:** The Council moved and approved going into a closed executive session to discuss personnel matters.

**ACTIONS:**

Elizabeth-advise student we decline his request to practice on our organ

Anne-speak with Holden’s Abby about what hours they want to use the Agape Center

Elizabeth-check with Anna to see if she wants to work more hours; advise Council

Elizabeth-contact St. Mary’s on Shane McRae presentation

Lani-talk to Anna about emergency and set up/take down contact payments and W-9s

Bill-get an agreement so OSV personnel can start up their evening security checks

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 7:00 pm (Zoom)**

Kathleen Wiegand, Clerk