**Orinda Community Church**

**Minutes of Church Council
Friday, April 7, 2023, 12:30 pm**

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

**Attendees:** Tom Norris

**OCC Solar Permit:** Council met to discuss the final proposal for additional solar in anticipation of the reimbursement and rate changes from PG&E. Contracting prior to April 14 will get us favorable buy-back rates. We’re working with Mr. Lamkin of Cooler Solar. We need to decide today whether or not to go forward with the application fees of $15,000 that are non refundable. The analysis that Tom Norris, Bill Abriel, Fred Matteson, and Anne put together indicates that it’s a better financial outcome for the church to invest in the solar now but it’s beneficial to discuss the risks and issues together via this meeting. The non refundable $15,000 is for the engineering and permitting. It requires one check payable to Cooler Solar. We’d be using Next 80 funds.

Per discussion, the proposal would give us an 80% increase in solar and lock in favorable rates. This is an infrastructure investment to enable us to be greener and make future energy changes more palatable. We’ll be replacing the inverters we already have for ones that are cooler and quieter. The panels are made by Sun Power, like our current ones. They’re included in the $100,000 price for 25 KW hours we’re applying for. The current proposal from Mr. Lamkin needs to be cut down from 50 KW hours to 25 KW hours.

**ACTION:** Tom and Bill will go back to the contractor to get the terms refined for size of the unit, deposit amount, tax credit mechanism for selling tax credit, payment schedule, a back out clause or termination for convenience before the equipment is ordered; and DocuSign. We’ll need the updated contract 48 hours prior to the deadline so we can review it before the Moderator signs it.

The Council moved and approved spending $15,000 *contingent* on an appropriate contract that will be circulated to Council for final approval.

Kathleen Wiegand, Clerk

NOTE: Per Bill Abriel’s 9 pm email on 4/7/23, apparently legal changes in January 2023 eliminate the option for OCC to be able to take the 30% federal tax credit. That changes the project considerably. Although the project has some merit, Anne, Tom, and Bill want to withdraw their support for the application to expand solar now because without the tax credit the economics are not clearly advantageous, we’d be tying up capital ($100,000) on a project that isn’t a priority (isn’t urgent); and the project no longer fits the “favorable contract” criteria upon which Council agreed to proceed. Council members agreed, via email, to no longer pursue the application for solar expansion at this time.

Kathleen Wiegand, Clerk