**Orinda Community Church**

**Minutes of Church Council  
Wednesday, April 26, 2023**

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

**Clergy Attending:** Elizabeth Robinson

**Minutes:** The 3/22/23 minutes were approved by email on 3/27/23; the 4/7/22 minutes were approved by email on 4/12/23

**Pastor’s Report:** Rev. Elizabeth Robinson reported a slow uptick in Sunday attendance as well as an increase in requests for money as pandemic financial aid ends. She reported two campus issues. Someone steals our pride flag within 24 hours of it being flown and folks are using our parking lot dumpster. We’ve found OSV mail, birthday party trash, and used oil in it. Anna Gregory is ordering a sign that says “smile, you’re on camera” to post there. Per Bob Winbigler, the dumpster issue will be discussed at the next OSV Board meeting; OSV may install a camera there. Gail Mead suggested with Lucina leaving soon we should do a review of cameras needed to protect our campus (how many, best location, how to view footage). She will contact Karl Schonberg to see if he can help and will get the ball rolling on this issue. Elizabeth reviewed some of the topics for future presentations. Congregants have been declining to do second hour spiritual journeys. She’d like to schedule a cleanup day for the Camel and Music rooms to make better use of this space. There are file cabinets all over the church property that need to be reviewed. Maybe we need to schedule regular clean up days. We could pick monthly Sundays so people could stay after the service, eat lunch, and help cleanup certain sections of the campus. The Easter and Good Friday services were well-attended. The collaborative confirmation meeting with the youth was good, too. The Muslim prayer meeting group will start monthly meetings this Friday and will pay rent; this is a great addition to our community.

Elizabeth gets weekly inquiries from congregants asking why we aren’t doing more with children/youth. She’s spent months working with job postings, parents, and youth trying to do just this, but to little avail. We agreed that Elizabeth do an eblast reflection on this so the congregation knows all the efforts she’s made on this issue. She’ll also mention this during a Sunday service. Any congregants who have ideas or admonitions on youth issues should talk to the PRC (Pastoral Relations Committee), **not Elizabeth**. This will help maintain appropriate relationships between these congregants and Elizabeth.

**Treasurer’s Update:** Per Lani Shepp, our income for the year is on target. We raised $1500 on Easter for The Black Wealth Building Fund. The Good Friday service yielded around $900. We need a new HR guide ($1500) that Endowment will fund. Winter Nights starts Monday. There are several people from the community volunteering this time. Of the 20 guests, there are two families that speak mostly Spanish, no English.

**At-Large Member Reports:** Per Mitch Breitwieser, there will be an Alta Mesa Zoom session with Lucy Jane Bledsoe. Gail Mead reports that the Governance Committee is almost done revising the Bylaws, including term limits. Bill Abriel asked Elizabeth Robinson to review the Bylaws’ open and affirming statement and let Gail know if it needs any new terminology. We’ll then have the congregation vote to update the Bylaws (before the next Annual Meeting).

**Vice Moderator’s Report:** Per Bill Abriel, Anne Barr and Bill talked to Sean (OSV) about three tasks: security, caretaker duties, and emergency contacts. Sean mentioned these tasks are all performed at OSV and the people doing them there can do them at OCC. Anne and Bill will work with Sean on a job description and protocols and then advise the Council. Elizabeth Robinson mentioned we are continuing to have trouble with OSV parking in OCC spaces. On an average day we have 8-14 non-OCC people in our parking spots. Sean is still advising us to tow OSV offenders and Elizabeth supports this. Some of the OSV people getting warning notes on their cars about not parking in our spaces are coming into the church office and threatening Anna Gregory who is often by herself. We can’t tow cars when she’s by herself. Bill Abriel will work on our strategy for an OCC policing effort for the parking lot and dumpster. Regarding our stolen pride flags, the last time the thief took the flag pole, too. Tom Norris has volunteered to put up a camera he has. Elizabeth will start reporting the thefts/vandalism to the police. We should also ask the fire station to keep an eye out for this since they are just across the street from the flag.

**ACTIONS:**

Gail-call Karl Schonborn about campus cameras; start working on this issue

Elizabeth-prepare “Reflection” and “Concern” regarding youth efforts

Elizabeth-advise Gail if bylaws’ open/affirming statement needs any new terminology

Bill-develop strategy for OCC policing effort for parking lot and dumpster

Elizabeth-advise police of pride flag/pole thefts; ask fire station to help watch for us

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 24, 2023; 7:00 pm

Kathleen Wiegand, Clerk