

Orinda Community Church
Minutes of Church Council
Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Council Attendance: Kurt Sunderbruch, Anne Barr, Kathleen Wiegand, Bob Winbigler, Gail Mead, Karen Sanford

Clergy Attending: ---

Minutes: The 1/12/20 minutes were approved unanimously by email on 1/14/20

Moderator's Report: As Moderator, Kurt would like to build on our strengths; think about other ways of being the church; and build more on spirituality practices in the community. He and Jim have talked about these goals which might help provide an income stream for the church. A big concern is our financial stability; dealing with capital needs as we come to the end of the TUTH funds. How do we address these looming capital needs? Anne mentioned there is a delicate balance between the church's Endowment funds and other funds like TUTH.

At-Large Member Reports: Gail mentioned LL&S continues to put up programs and Gail will work on finishing the library. Karen reported on M&J projects. There are quite a few young people who want to go to Guatemala the last week of June. Maureen M. will be one of the point people helping Jim. There is a Food Bank trip in March and M&J is talking about a fundraiser for the Food Bank between March and May. We may try to do a spring service cultural trip to Ghost Ranch in Santa Fe, New Mexico. M&J is trying to find interesting things for the congregation to do and projects that pull kids and adults together. Leslie O'Brien has joined the Green Team and is starting up a soap project.

Buildings and Grounds: Tom Norris reported on a variety of projects for the campus. The gas project is 3 weeks from being done and then we'll look at landscaping the dug up areas. The hallway concrete outside the library is starting to crack. The best time to do something about it, if needed, is when we landscape. As a first step, we need to prioritize our list of facility projects. We've already spent about \$18,000 for emergency repairs from soil movement. Lighting isn't urgent but has a quick payback. The low voltage lighting in front of the narthex needs fixing. The library roof has leaks from solar panels or skylights. Tom would like to see some isolation valves in the water pipes so we can shut down different sections to do fixes. The storm drains are in good shape. There is a serious drainage problem in the music room lawn that has contributed to serious movement of part of the Agape Room. A fix for this is urgent and we'll hire it out. Each winter, water fills the main 4 inch conduit, rusting the main electrical panel box bottoms. Bob doesn't feel this is a high priority to fix right now. Kurt asked Tom to compile a list of self contained projects we think we can do. Figure out

interdependencies between projects, how long it will take to do the work, costs, and impacts of doing/not doing the work. Kurt will take this prioritized list to the congregation and then we can decide how to spend/raise money for the fixes. A team will work on this list: Tom, Kurt, Bob W., Karen S., and maybe Mark Nichols. Kurt will email possible meeting times to the team members. The team's plan should be defensible, prudent, and executable. Kurt will report back on it at the next Council Meeting.

Becoming a Creation Justice Church: Nancy Thursby reported the Green Team has taken on a program of the UCC on Becoming a Creation Justice Church. The program assists congregations in making the ministry of environmental justice an integral part of their faith community. The Green Team will continue working on this program and aims to have a meeting with the congregation in May to vote on adopting a Creation Justice Covenant. M&J likes this program. The Green Team would like to plant a tree (church kids to help?) on the church campus and Nancy will talk to Lani about doing so when the new landscaping is being done. Nancy will write a blurb about this Becoming a Creation Justice Church program for the *Neighbor*. The name of the program is a little confusing so she'll explain what it's all about.

The Council moved and approved to go into a closed executive session to discuss personnel matters.

New Business: Elizabeth can't attend Wednesday Council meetings since she leads the Wednesday Contemplative Services. Kurt will see if she can move the Contemplative Services to Tuesday or Thursday. After Easter, the Council may be able to meet on Tuesdays during the summer until Tuesday handbell rehearsals start again in Sept/Oct.

Next Steps:

Kurt—email prospective meeting times to the B&G team who will compile a prioritized list of facility projects. Report on the team's progress at the March 25 Council mtg.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 25, 6:30 pm; library

Kathleen Wiegand, Clerk