**Orinda Community Church**

**Minutes of Church Council
Thursday, February 23, 2023**

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

**Clergy Attending:** Elizabeth Robinson

**Minutes:** The 1/25/23 minutes were approved by email on 1/25/23

**Pastor’s Report:** Per Rev. Elizabeth Robinson, there were 16 folks at the Ash Wednesday service. She has seen an uptick in attendance for the Contemplative Service and the Centering Prayer group. There are also a few more people coming to our Sunday services. Elizabeth agreed to host a multi-church Good Friday Service at OCC. She is working with Sarah Elovich to do a Seder Dinner at OCC during Holy Week. The labyrinth will be up for Palm Sunday. Lucina Lopez will do a Second Hour on 3/12. Elizabeth will do a weekend confirmation overnight retreat at OCC in mid-March open to community youth. Chris Mead will give the reflection this Sunday so Elizabeth can work with youth during the service time. M&J’s selected theme for Lent is “Home” (tying in with Winter Nights). M&J will take a special offering during Lent for the Black Wealth Builders Fund to help those trying to raise a down payment for a home.

**Treasurer’s Update:** Per Lani Shepp, we are in good shape through April. In June we’ll send out notices about people’s pledge standing. Lani has received a copy of our solar equipment contract. It expires on 11/4/23 so she will be contacting them.

**Lilly Grant Process:**  Anne Barr mentioned Elizabeth Robinson talked to PRC three weeks ago about her three-month sabbatical renewal and applying for a Lilly Grant to help fund it. For her sabbatical, Elizabeth would first like to travel with Randy and then return home and evaluate the writings she’s done and those she’s collected from congregants since coming to OCC. She’s interested in composing a booklet of these writings to share with the congregation. She’d also like to take classes to enhance talents that will benefit the church (flower arranging; making anointing oils). She seeks restorative activities without deadlines that will renew her and recalibrate her spiritual metabolism. The Council members present agreed with her plans. Council also discussed how the church will run while Elizabeth is on sabbatical. Others can step in to handle essential activities. We’ll have some type of interim pastor. After Elizabeth returns from her sabbatical we’ll need to make sure those who filled in for her get some time off, too. The church enrichment plan (Part of the Lilly Grant) will outline programs and activities to renew the congregation during the sabbatical. This will include social activities such as dinners, discussion groups, living room conversations, and Zoom Fellowship Hours to build community. During the three months Elizabeth is away, we will advise the congregation of her progress/milestones. During the sabbatical the congregation is not to contact Elizabeth and Elizabeth has no obligation to contact the congregation. We will celebrate with Elizabeth when she returns at the end of her three months. There will be a Zoom call next Tuesday, 2/28, at 4 pm to continue planning this with the congregation. Elizabeth will email Brian Shepp to send out the eblast tomorrow about next Tuesday’s 4 pm Zoom planning session.

**At-Large Member Reports:**

B&G-Bob Winbigler mentioned B&G met recently and there is nothing Council needs to approve right now. Lani Shepp mentioned the hole in the ceiling has been repaired and the Boy Scout troop cleaned out the closet on the back porch.

LL&S-Per Mitch Breitwieser, LL&S met on Monday and discussed privacy and technical issues for OCC events such as Second Hours. When/how do we restrict the audience for our live-streamed or recorded events that are/could be posted to YouTube? Council agreed with Mitch that this needs a working team to handle the technical issues.

**Vice Moderator’s Report:** Anne Barr reported Bill Abriel is doing work on governance with Gail Mead and on engagement. He is also working on the OSV Board replacements. Fred Matteson rolls off the Board in March and John Thursby in September. Victoria Smith also rolls off the Board soon. The Board is working through a circulation plan and parking throughout construction.

**ACTIONS:**

Elizabeth-email Brian Shepp to send out eblast on 2/24 for 2/28 Zoom Lilly Grant sabbatical planning session

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 22, 2023; 7:00 pm

Kathleen Wiegand, Clerk