**Orinda Community Church**

**Minutes of Church Council  
Wednesday, February 23, 2022**

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

**Clergy Attending:** Elizabeth Robinson

**Minutes:** The 1/26/22 minutes were approved by email on 2/2/22

**Pastor’s Report:** Rev. Elizabeth Robinson reported Leslie O’Brien’s service of release went well and we’ll do an in person celebration when it’s safe to do so. Elizabeth is grateful for Barry Cammer’s assistance and guidance. She’ll be reevaluating where to go with centering prayer and the Contemplative Service. We’re advertising our March Natalie Baszile event in the Orinda News. There are flyers available in the church office to spread the word to the community. Advertising options include the St. Mary’s newspaper; Orinda News; Lamorinda News; Lamorinda Patch; and Nextdoor. Elizabeth will work with Anna Gregory to develop a list of advertising sources to use on a routine basis for our events. Gail Mead will do a Nextdoor post for the Natalie Baszile event and Anne Barr will check with Mary Volmer on how many people have registered for it. It’s time to ramp up our LL&S activities; Jill Oberheim will be the new chair. Elizabeth has been doing a lot of visiting. M&J wants to do a Lenten focus on hunger and food scarcity involving both the Alameda and Contra Costa/Solano Food Banks.

**Treasurer’s Update:** Per Lani Shepp, we’re in a really positive position to get some things accomplished.

**Youth and Family Next Steps:** Determining our youth program involves engaging people to participate and following the AB506 guidelines. Bill Abriel, Gail Mead and Mitch Breitwieser are researching successful engagement principles. Based on a pamphlet Gail found, Mitch explained what’s important in engaging people is helping them feel they have a contribution to make and it would be fulfilling for them to participate. Let them know we think they’d be good at the job; people can do what they do best. It helps, too, if the time commitment is limited so it fits with busy schedules, e.g., having to do something only once a month. For our youth program, some people could work on what kind of topics and activities would be good. Others could help with the Moment for Children during the Sunday service.

Anne Barr is working on obtaining a lot of feedback from different sources to craft the youth program plan. She wants to talk to Barry Cammer about how to bring people together to capture their ideas and then recruit participants. March will be a month of inquiry and we’ll move to April with more specific plans. We discussed the need to acknowledge the work of all those involved in this endeavor. We’ll work on an engagement model with the youth program to see if it’s successful. The first piece to set up is the Children’s Moment each Sunday. We decided Elizabeth Robinson will do this throughout March but there are a number of people available to step in, if needed. Elizabeth suggested we could do some events with families to let them know we love them and care about them. Perhaps a lunch or something during the service.

Gail Mead reported on AB506, saying the UCC AB506 materials are really good. She is working on a policy for Council to review. She will review information on Live Scan, the fingerprinting system, with Anna Gregory. We must do fingerprinting, 2-4 hour reporter training, and create a written policy that complies with AB506. The Council moved and approved becoming subscribers to Church HR Network to access the required reporter training (annual cost is $720). Amy Parlett and Nancy Peterson are working with Gail.

**Next 80 Update:** Lani Shepp reported this group will meet monthly and keep official records on its decisions. The backside of the Agape Center will be painted next. The group will get bids on painting the two sides of the sanctuary not yet painted (estimate is at least $50,000 due to extensive scaffolding and products needed) and will send it to the Council for approval. The group worked with Andy Weber and talked about seismic needs; we’ll get three bids on this. An analysis of all five buildings will run about $50,000. We’ll then have a list of priorities for seismic health and a plan of what needs to be done. Once we have the bids the group will send it to the Council to approve the seismic health plan. The church management of facilities has three areas: everyday maintenance is Buildings and Grounds; projects and major issues is Next 80; and special projects not funded in other ways may require Endowment help. We have a problem with the everyday maintenance because the B&G committee (who is responsible for that section) doesn’t meet and track everyday facility issues. They do handle emergencies as needed. Some further engagement and oversight is needed in this area.

**B&G Update:** Bob Winbigler mentioned B&G used to have meetings but no longer has them. It just has a few folks who help fix facility problems as they arise. We need to find (clerical) people to tune in and keep track of facility issues so we can then hire people to fix the problems. Anne Barr and Bill Abriel will discuss how to resolve this.

**At-Large Member Reports:** Mitch Breitwieser mentioned Scripture and Theology is a really good group with lively discussion. It’s a big success. The group reads books and discusses them.

**New Business:** Kathleen Wiegand mentioned it’s not too early to brainstorm on how to handle the caretaker duties once we lose the cottage (late summer). Anne Barr will put this on the agenda for the March Council meeting. Kathleen also asked about revisiting the parking lot issue, especially enlisting the OSV Board to work on options to resolve it. While the situation improved for a while, it has deteriorated again with OSV tenants/workers parking in OCC parking spaces. Anne Barr will put this on the agenda for the March Council meeting.

**ACTIONS:**

Elizabeth – have Anna set up an advertising source list to use routinely for our events

Gail – do Nextdoor post on Natalie Baszile event

Anne – check with Mary Volmer on number registered for Natalie Baszile event

Anne – continue to get input on youth program

Anne/Bill – discuss how to track and fix B&G facility issues

Anne – for March Council meeting, include caretaker and parking lot agenda items

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 23, 2022; 7:00 pm

Kathleen Wiegand, Clerk