**Orinda Community Church**

**Minutes of Church Council  
Wednesday, January 25, 2023**

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

**Clergy Attending:** Elizabeth Robinson

**Minutes:** The 12/20/22 minutes were approved by email on 12/26/22. The 1/11/23 minutes were approved by email on 1/14/23.

**Pastor’s Update:** Per Reverend Elizabeth Robinson, this Sunday is Liz Simmonds’ memorial service at 2 pm. The baby grand piano offer turned out to be an elaborate scam that Anna Gregory helped discover. We still need help with space set up and take down for our renters. Anna and Elizabeth have been doing some of it. We’ve looked at this previously and couldn’t find anyone. Anna’s son might be able to help for special occasions and all-day events. She could supervise and monitor his hours of work. Bill Abriel will recontact Anna regarding her son’s help.

Elizabeth wrote another job description for a short term youth person but received no response to this posting. She is talking weekly with other UCC youth pastors who want to start a collaborative program for a rapid youth confirmation retreat on March 18 and 19 for 8th graders and up. Elizabeth offered our church for this. Perhaps Amy Parlett (C&Y), with Anne Barr’s help, can reach out to our youth who might be interested in this confirmation program. Elizabeth is also working on creating a monthly youth service program starting in February. She would work with youth one Sunday a month. Anne Barr mentioned having Elizabeth do this 12 Sundays a year is a lot of work and Elizabeth will need help with finding guest preachers and contacting the youth. Suggestions include having the Worship & Music Committee find guest preachers; relying on Amy Parlett (C&Y) and others to help with outreach; having PRC help where possible; and continuing to put together parental contact info. Anne will talk more to Elizabeth on the service and confirmation programs and work with Amy on them.

Elizabeth indicated Holden Sunday is Feb 5 and is taking shape. The Boy Scouts asked for a bulletin board at the church and that morphed into them wanting a storage cabinet that is probably best housed in the Fireside Room alcove. We moved and approved putting the cabinet in the Fireside Room. In return for this favor, we may ask the scouts for some help with event set up and tear down. This could be part of a badge requirement.

**Executive Session**: The Council moved and approved going into a closed executive session due to a matter that would violate the privacy of an individual if discussed in an open meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report:** The Council moved and approved up to $62,209 for Elizabeth Robinson’s 2023 housing allowance. Lani Shepp reported the recent bills from the structural engineer who looked at the Mayflower Room and the crack in the sanctuary are higher than expected (at $22,000). Lani finds this troublesome. Next 80 will look into this and decide what to do. The bill has not yet been paid. The water heater in the cottage has been replaced and was funded from the B&G account. There is a B&G subcommittee of Anne Barr, Bill Abriel, Bob Winbigler, and Lani to oversee such projects.

**Annual Meeting Follow up:** We now need to have our Governance Committee work on reviewing our term limits. Traditionally, the Engagement Committee does the nominating, led by the Vice Moderator. We need to build up our Engagement Committee. Anne Barr, Gail Mead, and Bill Abriel will discuss these issues on Monday and provide direction to the Governance Committee. Mike Kersten wants to work on the term limits with Governance. Karen Norris wants to join the Engagement Committee.

**At-Large Member Reports:** Mitch Breitwieser reported LL&S has planned two events in February and one in March. Gail Mead reported Nancy Thursby put up a bulletin board in the narthex with thank you letters from people M&J has supported.

**Vice Moderator’s Report:** Bill Abriel reported a B&G subcommittee of Bob Winbigler, Lani Shepp, Anne Barr, and Bill will now work with B&G to narrow down options on projects before these requests come to Council for approval. Greg Hartdegen has agreed to perform routine campus maintenance for us and will sign a contract with us soon. Greg will alert us to maintenance that needs to be done but the work must be authorized by Tom Norris before Greg begins. Greg will submit his hourly records every two weeks. NOTE: The Council voted to approve Greg Hartdegen’s contract by email following this Council meeting. Bill will talk to Tom and Greg about Greg’s first projects.

The Council voted to approve up to $800 for Tom Norris to replace the gas valve on the kitchen oven. The Council voted to approve up to $2100 for Tom Norris to replace the fluorescent bulbs in the TOPS area. Seventy bulb sockets will need rewiring to put in LEDs. Bill has talked to Tom and Les Simmonds about the furnace replacement in the Fellowship Hall. For now, Elizabeth Robinson is using the library space heater in her office. Lani Shepp agreed to purchase a new space heater for the library.

**Other Business:** Anne Barr asked to change the February Council meeting from Wednesday, 2/22/23 to Thursday, 2/23/23. Council agreed. Chris Mead has advised if we reserve our handicapped parking spaces for OCC people (via signs) the spaces will then not be available to OSV parkers. We may then choose to tow those who park in OCC-designated spaces. Anne Barr and Bill Abriel will talk about a nominee to replace Lee Cruise on the OSV Board.

**ACTIONS:**

Bill-recontact Anna Gregory regarding her son’s help with event set up/take down

Anne-talk to Elizabeth on youth service program/confirmation and work with Amy Parlett

Elizabeth-advise scouts can house cabinet in Fireside Room; help with event set up?

Anne, Bill, Gail-provide options/direction to the Governance Committee on term limits

Lani-purchase a new space heater for the library

Bill-talk to Tom Norris and Greg Hartdegen about Greg’s first projects

Anne/Bill-talk about nominee to replace Lee Cruise on OSV Board

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 23, 2023; 7:00 pm

Kathleen Wiegand, Clerk