**Orinda Community Church**

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

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

**Clergy Attending:** Elizabeth Robinson

**Other Attendees:** Tom Norris

**Minutes:** The 2/23/22 minutes were approved by email on 2/28/22

**Pastor’s Report:** Elizabeth Robinson was pleased with the Natalie Baszile lecture. Thirty-five attended in person and 19 viewed online during the live broadcast. So far there have been 79 hits on the lecture link so word is getting out. Barry Cammer will be helping out more over the next two weekends while Elizabeth does two memorials. Barry is also handling the grief support group. We are moving toward our Easter Sunday events. Alta Mesa continues doing well with two good readings. The writers group did Stations of the Cross displays tied into donations for the Food Banks. Mercy and Justice is doing a sock and belt drive.

**Treasurer’s Update:** Lani Shepp mentioned our pledging deposits are on target. She is checking out some operational costs that seem out of line and will advise us. Barry Cammer is paid as an independent contractor. Hopefully Marcel McLain will be able to pick up more custodial duties that Anna has been doing on overtime.

**Next 80:** Per Lani Shepp, Fred Matteson made contact with people who will evaluate our seismic status. We are waiting for a bid from a new painting contractor (recommended by Andy Weber) and are hoping they will be able to do the work on the window side during the Holden break beginning April 11. They will then move to the front where the cross is. These are the last two sides of the building to be painted. We will decide on the contractor when we see this new bid.  Our current contractor, Meza Painting, has done an excellent job on the rest of our facilities.

**Youth and Family Next Steps:** Anne Barr and Barry Cammer will facilitate a discussion after church this Sunday, 3/27, to get feedback to revitalize our youth and family program; we must follow the new law AB506 which Anne will cover at the discussion. Anne reviewed the discussion questions with the Council. She already has some feedback from 6-7 people. Anne will check with Bill Abriel about the refreshments. She and Barry will do a prep session on Saturday.

**Role of the Council:** Gail Mead found a document on the Church HR Network website she thought would be useful in evaluating the OCC Council. We reviewed the Evaluation of the Council Questionnaire and discussed some changes to customize it for our church. Anne Barr and Gail will revise it. During the past two years of Covid the Council has functioned in crisis management mode, without time to revisit our mission and vision with the congregation. It’s now time to reactivate our ministries/committees; we’ll start by sending the questionnaire to the chairs/leaders to obtain their feedback. We’ll also reinstate having the chairs/leaders periodically report on their activities to Council during the monthly Council meetings. The ministries/committees were created to work along side the Council in sharing the responsibilities of the church

**Music Room Air Filters:** Tom Norris has proposed buying 4 additional, portable air filters (about $1000) for the Music Room. We have 8 portable filters for the Fellowship Hall, library and office. Right now we are moving some of the filters from room to room. As we get more rentals, we need to be ready for events that involve multiple rooms at the same time. Anne Barr asked Tom to look for higher capacity filters for the Music Room that would reduce the number needed (totaling around $1000). We’ll also need replacement filters ($40 each). Tom will notify Anne of his findings before purchasing.

**B&G Update:** Tom Norris reported Karen Sandford says we don’t need French drains in front of the Music Room but we do need roof drains there. She has a plan. The fix will be $3000 or less. Per Lani Shepp, this is Next 80 business.

**At-Large Member Reports:** Mitch Breitwieser reported the Theology and Scripture group is going strong with great discussion. He’d like to see more people join. Gail Mead reported the Green Team is going great guns. Gail is working with Fred Matteson and the Endowment Board on a programmable, digital sign. Per Tom Norris, the electrical wires in that area were ripped up when the parking lot was put in. Gail will check with the sign company on how to power the sign.

**Vice Moderator’s Report:** Bill Abriel will meet with Gail Mead and Mitch Breitwieser to gather suggestions for an engagement process for our church. Anne Barr suggested two pilots for this engagement process: looking for new chairs for LL&S and for Youth and Family. Gail Mead suggested upgrading our explanation of the ministries and committees so folks know how they work for us and create community and faith.

**New Business:** Anne Barr mentioned Barry Cammer is happy to help out for four months but isn’t sure he can continue beyond that. Council will need to revisit this need to support Elizabeth Robinson. Elizabeth mentioned Marcel McLain will be leaving in the summer for graduate school. We need to discuss how to cover event set up/custodial duties when he leaves. Anne Barr indicated these are good topics for the next Council meeting.

**ACTIONS:**

Anne and Bill – discuss refreshments for 3/25 Youth and Family discussion

Anne and Gail – revise the Evaluation of Council Questionnaire and send to Ministry/Committee Chairs

Gail – check with the programmable, digital sign company on how to power the sign

Anne – April Council agenda to include support for Elizabeth when Barry’s 4 months are over; and covering event setup/custodial duties when Marcel leaves in summer.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 27, 2022; 7:00 pm

Kathleen Wiegand, Clerk