**Orinda Community Church**

**Minutes of Church Council
Wednesday, November 30, 2022**

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

**Guests:** Tom Norris

**Clergy Attending:** Elizabeth Robinson

**Minutes:** The 10/26/22 minutes were approved by email on 10/29/22

**Pastor’s Report:** Rev. Elizabeth Robinson reported our church groups are continuing and thriving. The recent Fellowship Hall (FH) Sunday service was well received and we’d like to get live streaming for the FH. Bev Blaisdell is a wonderful on call person and cared for several folks while Elizabeth was on vacation. Elizabeth advised Lucina of the probable timing for the hillside ground-breaking (Sept). Our Advent Wednesday nights start next week on Dec 7. We need to offer rides to those who want to attend but don’t like to drive at night. Our Christmas Eve service is taking shape. Youth that want to participate may help decorate a tree. We will do a simple, brief Christmas Day service—maybe in the Chapel if it’s not too cold. There will be a memorial service for Liz Simmonds on 1/29/23 at 2 pm. A new parking problem has surfaced. A new woman in OSV is parking in our handicapped spot closest to the church. It affects our TOPS parkers as well as our Sunday congregation. She claims a car with a handicapped designation cannot be towed from any handicapped space. We will check the law. Elizabeth will contact the OSV Board to weigh in on the solution. OSV is responsible for having enough handicapped spots for their residents.

**Treasurer’s Budget Update/Stewardship:** Lani Shepp reported only one person came to the Sunday budget discussion. We have a budget expense gap but we also have rollover from 2022 and money from budgeted activities prevented by Covid. Bill Abriel reported total pledges of $344,000 for 2022. So far we have $256,000 in pledges for 2023 and we expect that to rise to about $340,000 once we receive all 2023 pledges. We need to communicate our budget situation to the congregation so Anne Barr will do a budget session after the 1/8 Sunday service.

**Auction Discussion:** Per Gail Mead, we made over $13,000. Gail is reconciling auction payments to the church’s financial program to be included in donor’s year-end statements. Anne Barr thanked Gail for all her auction efforts.

**Caretaker Roles Update:** Bill Abriel reported Lucina and Lucas are doing a really nice job on their campus security walks. Bill will back them up over Christmas when they’re on vacation. They’re still finding unlocked doors. Bill will get the lock box access data from Anna Gregory to help decide how to handle those leaving the doors unlocked.

**Children, Youth, and Family Update:** Per Anne Barr, Elizabeth Robinson suggested we may be able to rethink our Youth position and Sunday school. We’ve made some modest progress since last spring with some activities happening. We have an unmet need for Sunday school and a social justice curriculum. Elizabeth and Anna Gregory have put together a youth distribution list. Per Elizabeth, it’s hard to publicize the youth activities and then no one/a limited number responds. It’s challenging with lots of work for little result. Elizabeth suggested providing a Sunday lunch once a month followed by a social justice activity while there’s still plenty of adults at church to help out. For example, the youth could bake cookies or make sandwiches, take some for themselves, and provide the rest for others in need. Or, to provide intergenerational activities, the lunch activity could be youth interviewing elders. Could LL&S or Mercy and Justice oversee this monthly youth activity? Elizabeth might have the time to work with the youth one Sunday a month if someone else preaches. We have money in the budget for a PSR student to teach a youth curriculum and help with these social justice activities. We’ll think more about this after Advent.

**At-Large Member Reports:** Gail Mead reported M&J is working on the Hope Solutions activity. Mitch Breitwieser reported LL&S postponed the Christian Nationalism Panel until early next year and Kurt Sunderbruch will do a spiritual journey session early next year. The LL&S schedule is quite full. Tom Norris discussed his recently submitted list of projects over $500 that must go through Council. Anne Barr confirmed with Tom that he will check with the scouts to see what work they can do. We discussed that the project list needs to show what kind of work is needed, the cost, when it will get done, and what skill level is needed. Anne will convene a small group next week to go over Tom’s list (Anne, Tom, Lani Shepp, Bob Winbigler, and Bill Abriel). Tom can also invite other B&G folks to attend. Bill Abriel is trying to find a new handyman for simple work.

**ACTIONS:**

Elizabeth-check with OSV Board for solution to handicapped parking for their resident

Gail and Anne-check law for handicapped parking in a private parking lot

Elizabeth-after Advent, contact PSR regarding a youth teacher/activities leader

Anne-do a budget session (with concrete frugality examples) after 1/8 Sunday service

Bill-get lock box access data from Anna G. to decide how to handle unlocked doors

Anne-after Advent, brainstorm on setting up monthly social justice activities for youth

Anne-convene meeting next week to discuss Tom Norris’ project list

Kathleen Wiegand, Clerk