**Orinda Community Church**

**Minutes of Church Council  
Wednesday, October 26, 2022**

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

**Clergy Attending:** Elizabeth Robinson

**Minutes:** The 9/21/22 minutes were approved by email on 10/5/22

**Pastor’s Report:** Elizabeth Robinson reported Holden Sunday will be 1/15/23. She thanked Bill Abriel for the stewardship speakers he’s selected. The Worship Committee has been reconstituted and is working on something beautiful and simple for youth at Christmas. Advent will again have Wednesday readings at 7 pm. There will be a solstice event in the Fellowship Hall (FH) on 12/21 with the labyrinth. Last Sunday’s service in the FH went well and we’ll continue to do it now and then with structured conversation and participation. Elizabeth has done a tremendous amount of work trying to structure a Children and Youth (C&Y) program. The warmest response from our youth is for doing service work. Karen Sanford is willing to be involved in Guatemala travel with them. We could also go to PSR for help to organize a youth team for service work. Anne Barr mentioned we are moving toward a modest C&Y program under Amy Parlett’s leadership and support. Amy wants call lists established for occasional Sunday school sessions or trips to Starbucks. We may not need to hire per the job description we recently wrote for Children, Youth and Family. But we do need some funding for Elizabeth’s visitations, pulpit support, and potentially for support of some other areas, including aging and children and youth. Thanks to Elizabeth for working so hard on C&Y matters. She is going on vacation for two weeks in November. It will be difficult for us to sustain the Grief Group leader expense much longer. We might want to think of it as a loss group instead of a grief group. Perhaps it should segue into a support group on aging without the need for a paid professional leader all the time. Maybe we need to start up our monthly senior luncheons again to promote more socialization. The Boy Scouts will do Winter Nights in February and some projects for us. They’ve also offered to replace the AV system in the Fellowship Hall (FH). We need a new liaison with the scouts who can put together a list of scout projects and bring it to the Council for approval. Anne Barr and Bill Abriel will find a new Boy Scout liaison.

**Treasurer’s Update:** Lani Shepp reported we need to have some seismic evaluations done for our campus. This advice is very expensive but we need to move ahead with it. We’ll start with the Mayflower Room as well as a proposal to look at the cracks in the sanctuary. The Council moved and approved Next 80 spending $20,280 for analysis of these two projects. Lani reviewed a rough draft of the 2023 budget. Our current pledging is slow with $140,000 remaining to be paid on the 2022 pledges. Lani will make some phone calls to bring the pledges up to date ASAP so we can pay our bills. We may have a budget gap of $20,000 or so. We’ll deal with it by how we use the funds in the caretaker, support staff, and security budget slots. We have a tough budget situation but it’s not insurmountable. We need do some creative thinking for 2023 and the congregation needs to understand what we’re doing. There are no funds to support a second pastor and we’ll need to address this in our stewardship message. Per Anne Barr, we’ll revisit the budget topic next month. We’ll know more in December.

**Auction Report:** Gail Mead is working on the online auction. She was able to get several free donations today from local merchants. The online auction will start on Monday, 10/31 and end on Saturday, 11/5 with the pickup party on Sunday, 11/6.

**TOPS Lease Renewal:** Anne Barr mentioned the TOPS lease doesn’t expire right now; it’s valid for another year. TOPS has more questions about parking and safety with the kid drop off on Irwin Way in light of construction. Anne sent a letter to OSHF and OSV and copied Board Members about traffic and crosswalk control. Anne is working with OSHF, Holden, and TOPS to identify other parking for TOPS teachers during Vista Verde construction. Using the City lot, possibly using a few places at Holden and other options are being explored. Holden is requesting that their parking lot get striped which may help with parking.

**Vice Moderator’s Report:** Bill Abriel is working with Anne Barr on engagement and the Boy Scout liaison.

**Nov & Dec Mtg Dates:** Council will Zoom 11/30 instead of 11/23. Council will meet 12/20 at Anne Barr’s house (instead of Zooming on 12/28). Council will Zoom early in January for a budget meeting.

**New Business:** Bob Winbigler is doing the 11/6 stewardship message and asked what pledge percentage increase is appropriate for 2023. Bill Abriel will work with Lani on these stewardship figures and advise the stewardship committee and Bob.

**ACTIONS:**

Anne/Bill-find a new Boy Scout liaison

Lani-make phone calls for unpaid 2022 pledges

Bill-work with Lani on stewardship figures for brochure and for Bob Winbigler

Next Meeting: Wednesday, Nov 30, 2022; 7:00 pm

Kathleen Wiegand, Clerk