**Minutes of the Special Meeting**

**of the Orinda Community Church**

**Sunday, June 11, 2023**

Thirty members of the congregation met in person after the Sunday service for a special meeting of the congregation which was requested and noticed in accordance with OCC bylaws. Council member Gail Mead, filling in for Moderator Anne Barr, called the meeting to order at 11:03 am.

**Proposed Changes to OCC Bylaws:**

Gail Mead mentioned one change from the bylaws version sent out to the congregation prior to the meeting. In the Engagement Committee section (page 7) the first sentence should read “…the Vice-Moderator and up to at least two additional members…” Per Gail the Governance Committee was tasked to make amendments to the bylaws to accommodate our current resources; the church has fewer and fewer members to do the work. Under the revised bylaws, most of the positions now have no term limit (except the Moderator and Vice Moderator). The notice provision for Council meetings now conforms to the notice provision for a congregational meeting (7 days in advance). The references to “*The Neighbor”* have been replaced with “email” references.

Responses to audience questions revealed the following information. Gail Mead clarified that elections will continue to occur every year at the Annual Meeting but we will no longer require people to step away from their committee positions because of a term limit provision. The Moderator, with a 2-year term, and the Vice Moderator who serves 2 years as Vice Moderator and then 2 years as Moderator are the exceptions to this. Mike Kersten indicated the Engagement Committee is in charge of coming up with nominations and will check with every officer to see if they want to continue. If they do, they will be nominated to continue. Anyone else can be nominated, with their consent. We’ll still have annual open elections. Mike also indicated another change is the three At Large Council positions will be elected for a term of two years (instead of for staggered three year terms). Chris Mead mentioned we need more volunteers to do the work of the church and it’s been very hard over the past several years to find volunteers. So we are no longer going to apply term limits and make people leave their positions. If people want to stay in their positions, they can continue. This is necessary to keep our church going. Gail Mead clarified the new provision that allows for terminating a member through a two-thirds vote of the Council following due process is intended for rare instances when someone’s extremely disruptive to the life of the church. It won’t apply to general differences of opinion that might occur within the congregation. We want people to say what they want to say. No one is going to disenfranchise anyone in our open and affirming church.

Following the question and answer period Gail Mead called for a vote. The proposed changes to the bylaws were approved by 39 votes (including 10 proxies). Two members opposed the changes (including 1 via proxy).

Gail Mead adjourned the meeting around 11:20 am.

Kathleen Wiegand, Clerk