

# Hood River Alliance Church

## January 21, 2024 Governing Team Meeting Minutes

Joe Rinella, Bob Spotts, Keith Sietstra, Melissa Ing, Kelsey Strand, Anders Sorestad and 2024 GT nominee Terry Rogers were present. Marty Miller and Mary Bokovoy joined via Zoom and were denied opportunity for chili and cinnamon rolls as provided by Pastor Keith's wife.

The meeting opened at 12:07PM with a devotional provided by Marty, based on Matthew Chapter 6 versus 25-34. The passage from Jesus comforts us and we need not worry about change or suffer anxiety because of changes in our lives. Concluding this, we said the Lord's Prayer together.

### Consent Agenda

- There were no members excused – all were present for the meeting.
- The December attendance report was provided. Average Sunday attendance was 204, the first Christmas Eve service had 250 and the second service for Christmas Eve was 240.
- Mary is doing research, looking into the possibility for dates and location for a GT/church staff retreat. Thus far the Balch Hotel in Dufur offers the best package and availability for such.
- Finances were discussed, all expenses are holding as within the pastoral budgets established.
- There were no questions or corrections made to the December 2023 GT Meeting Minutes.
- Joe mentioned to the group that 80% of church capacity for attendance is a benchmark for determining when a second Sunday service might be necessary.

Bob moved to accept the Consent Agenda, Melissa gave a second to the motion and the Consent Agenda was passed.

### Ministry Objectives

- For the 2024 budget approval and finances. Anders commented on spreadsheets and highlighted a couple of new categories being tracked – Savings and Interest earned and also the checking account General Fund balance, providing clarity now on what the General Fund bottom line is,

Changes in the budget that were suggested in the December GT meeting were confirmed, clarified and confirmed as included in this budget discussion, including the budget items for the new Youth Pastor as well as for the Children's Ministry pastoral positions.

- From the treasurer's report, it was noted that weekly giving/receiving has exceeded the 2023 budget, and this does not include Dec. 2023 Advent Conspiracy giving. Marty made the motion to accept the 2024 Budget as presented, Mary gave a second to the motion and the 2024 budget was approved.

### **Conversation on Funding Surplus & Needs**

- Pastor Keith opened this conversation acknowledging both God's grace and staff wisdom in spending for the past year, that we would have a conversation about a surplus. The conversation proceeded with suggestions ranging from new exterior doors for the main entry as well as the west side and south side entries, to saving it for future, yet unforeseen needs to providing for One Life Church in The Dalles. An amount of \$20,000 was agreed upon for One Life and \$40,000 for the doors and saving the rest for overall building needs. Keith moved for acceptance, Joe gave a second to the motion and all approved.
- We discussed whether to establish a charitable giving fund for Micah Anderson and medical treatment expense needs. The IRS perspective on this was commented on, along with other concerns that could be related to or be interpreted as favoritism. It was noted we "could" establish an HRAC benevolent giving fund, but noted that givers in so doing, would be unable to "direct" funds to a specified cause. With further discussion, it was agreed the church will add information and reinforce other giving options such as "Go-Fund-Me", advertise how to give.
- This discussion highlighted a need for an **ACTION ITEM** for a more concise need for improving the benevolence position within the Church. Mary will coordinate this the Laura Rangel.
- We discussed whether and how to bless former Lead Pastor Steve Grace and wife Holly as they leave for Florida where Steve will become a Lead Pastor at a CMA church there in February. This circled back to the conversation of encouraging the church to "give" and it was agreed we will call them up before the church at a service before the leave, to pray, give them a gas card and allow the church fellowship to participate in an offering for them.

### **Linkage**

Lead Pastor Keith reminded the GT to engage with church staff.

## **Approval and adoption of 2024 Missionary Objectives**

- We further discussed and clarified the 2024 Missionary Objectives that were discussed in the November 2023 GT meeting and established but not finalized in the December 2023 GT meeting. For the “Rules of Life” Objective, a periodic survey from the church fellowship was suggested for how to measure and make this objective tangible.
- For Objective 2, a suggestion was made not to limit some of the larger groups such as CR and Women’s Ministries.
- Pastor Keith concluded the discussions noting that they do feel like they are what is on the hearts of the GT and HRAC attendees.
- A “Community Life” policy for the church was discussed. The purpose of this would be to provide guidance and clarity for use of the church and church property. Keith moved to accept the 2024 Missionary Objectives, Bob gave a second to the motion and the 2024 Missionary Objectives passed.

## **2024 Annual Church Meeting**

- Pastor Keith highlighted the plan and agenda for the annual church meeting to be held on February 4<sup>th</sup>. He noted that he wants “all” church leadership to participate in the presentation of information to the church body.
- Bob will provide the opening and closing comments.
- Within the ministry highlights, a section to share comments on the GT has been added and Marty will cover this topic.

## **Governing & Nominating Team Bylaw Adjustments**

- Discussions were had about some bylaw updates to the Governing Team and Nominating Term to help align terms and create a more consistent rhythm of rotation going forward.
- Governing Team would eliminate the ‘probation year’ - and go right into a 1st 3-year term. Upon completion of the term, a Governing Team member would be eligible for a 2nd 3-year term is calling still remains. They would then need to be approved by membership at the Annual Meeting.
- Nominating Team would add an additional at-large member - increasing that number to 3. They would also be asked to serve a 3-year term, with one at-large position rotating off each year. Finally, the annual selection of this member would be led by the Nominating Team (just like with Governing Team positions), and affirmed by Membership at the Annual Meeting.

- Joe Rinella made the motion to adopt these recommendations. Support was given by Kelsey. Approval was unanimous.
- Keith took the action item of updating the Bylaw to reflect these conversations and to communicate them at the Annual Meeting. Bylaw edits will be adopted at the February meeting.

## **Spending Policy**

- Per earlier discussions, a recommendation was brought by Keith to create a 'Spending Policy' to provide guidance to staff and clarity to HRAC on how funds may be spent.
- Keith took the action item of creating a draft of that spending policy to be adopted at the February meeting. In short it includes:
  - All purchases happen through church issued credit card or personal reimbursement. All receipts kept and turned in to validate purchases.
  - Staff approval for expenditures up to \$1,000 on budget items. Above that amount needs Lead Pastor approval/sign-off.
  - Lead Pastor approval for expenditures up to \$5,000 on budget items. Above that amount needs Governing Team approval/sign-off.
  - Governing Team approval for expenditures up to 10% of the annual budget. Above that needs full membership approval.
- Joe Rinella made the motion to approve this recommendation. Melissa Ing offered support. Approval was unanimous.

The remainder of the meeting agenda was tabled until the February meeting.

Joe Rinella led us in the meeting assessment, where a few items were noted as confidential, and where we celebrated relational unity.

Joe Rinella closed the meeting in prayer.