

Hood River Alliance Church

March 15, 2023 Governing Team Meeting Minutes

Kelsey Strand, Anders Sorestad, Marty Miller, Melissa Ing, Joe Rinella, Gregg Caruso and Mary Bokovoy were present.

The meeting was opened at 7:07PM by Intentional Interim Lead Pastor Gregg Caruso.

Devotional

Gregg began by sharing that he sees himself and the role within a Governing Team as being consensus builders. The scriptural model for this is based on Acts chapter 15, in particular the quotes of “having become of one mind” and “It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us”. He encouraged the Governing Team - “listen well and get input.”

Board Culture and Approval of Agenda

Gregg explained as we develop as the Governing Team we will have a pattern each month of, reviewing one policy. It was noted we'll come to meetings having reviewed the agenda in advance, but agenda's can be subject to change, noting even the agenda for this meeting was appropriately changed during the day as church staff identified items that needed fast attention. The Agenda was approved by all.

Excuse of Members - Bob Spotts was excused from the meeting.

Consent Agenda

- Anders gave the financial update, noting he typically updates his reports on the 10th of each month. Giving for February was down compared to January, due to fewer Sundays. The weekly giving average for February was up. He is tracking the number of donors and February had 8 new donors compared to more recent months, 2 of them categorized as “significant donors”. The recent trends are encouraging. Also, some give quarterly and we may look even better by the end of March.
- Attendance, including “at-home” viewers continues to grow and we are now averaging 217 each Sunday. Maybe more – the adjustment for home viewers is 1.6, on the basis there may be more than one viewer tuned in and watching on the same media device.
- It was moved and seconded to approve the consent agenda, including minutes for the February GT meeting and the motion passed.

Fiduciary Report

Updating our Orchard Alliance Bank ADF Savings Account, Steve Grace, Kurt Harter and Christine Keith are removed as check signers and Tim Saur, Laura Rangel, Tina Combs and

Joe Rinella will now be check-signers for Hood River Alliance Church. There was a move for this, a second to the motion was given and the motion was passed.

Generative

- For today's as well as GT meetings in the future, Mary Bokovoy will be facilitator, Joe Rinella will be assessor and Marty Miller will be secretary (minutes). Calendar dates of April 19, May 17 and June 21 were posted in advance of the meeting in our handout.
- We then reviewed the proposed Transgender Policy after suggested changes from the February meeting. The policy has also been reviewed and approved by our legal counsel. Joe highlighted the important word changes most notable change in the preamble, use of the word "welcoming" replaces "accepting" and he highlighted subtle word changes in the sections about bathrooms and retreats. He was asked about a conversation from Sunday's Annual Business Meeting. Joe gave a detailed explanation of that, which led to additional, robust discussion on this topic centered on membership and what gets examined when approving or disapproving membership applicants.
- There was a motion given to approve the Transgender Policy, a second to the motion was given and the Transgender Policy was approved.

Strategy

Gregg brought our attention to his 2023 Ministry Objectives Feb-March handout that he had provided us. He took us thru the highlights of the handout. Among other items noted, he gave a detailed report on the Search Team progress and considerations they have in their process. He discussed our worship community, unique needs and challenges of being part of worship ministry, particularly trying to lead and organize it. He talked about theology and the preaching team he has assembled. He also shared a brief update on a financial advisory team.

Following his report, GT members voiced a caution and questioned whether he might be taking on too much and looking to the future, comment was made about handing some things off to someone else to carry and it was suggested that he add "deliverables" to his Additional Teams list.

Next, Gregg took the GT through a power point presentation detailing what Policy Governance is and does. The Scriptural context for Policy Governance is from Philippians 1:27-28 and Philippians 2:1-4. This gives the foundational theology and backdrop for governance. He encouraged us to focus on "ends" and not efficiencies and listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying. To be forward thinking.

Highlighting the presentation:

- The overlap between community, cause and corporate activities – relating in a church environment to prophet, priest and king.

- Clearly stated values
- How it works in a church setting
- Traditional governance versus policy governance
- Organizational
- Focused leaders
- Model of governing team
- GT flowchart
- Mindset of a Godly meeting culture and separation of roles
- 4 quadrants
- Purpose of Policy Governance (healthy support of the Lead Pastor and clear delegation to the LP)
- Key Principles
- Board role
- LP role
- Accountability of the LP and performance review
- Board evaluation
- LP evaluation
- Implementation of PG
- Planning Calendar
- Linkage
- Monthly board meetings
- Distinctive work of elders being intersession, doctrine and discipline
- Next steps
- Indicators to look for to confirm PG is happening
- Gregg noted he is approachable. He and Anders spoke about putting together a pay range package for future LP candidates. Gregg concluded strategy by noting he is hoping to put together a 1/2-day board retreat, perhaps led by Steve Fowler of Salem Alliance Church.

Assessor

There were no concerns expressed and nothing was missed or left out of the meeting.

Mary closed us in prayer and the meeting adjourned at 9:03

Addendum – dated March 29, 2023

After clarifying and gaining understanding of the Christian and Missionary Alliance – General Council Lay Delegate process, what it means and what it does, it was moved and the Hood River Alliance Church Governing Team voted on and approved John Combs as a Lay Delegate for our Church. The Certificate of this is now included in our meeting minutes here.