

Hood River Alliance Church

March 20, 2024 Governing Team Meeting Minutes

Anders Sorestad, Simon Weaver, Marty Miller, Terry Rogers, Kelsey Strand, Melissa Ing Keith Sietstra, and Mary Bokovoy were present for this meeting. Also, Mike Tresko, and Katie Weaver as members of the Financial Advisory Board were present for the Linkage portion of the meeting.

The meeting was opened by Melissa who began with a thank you to the Bokovoy's for providing the meeting space in their home. She followed with a devotional – “Jesus Calling” and talked about beauty. Seeking beauty, absorbing it seeing it in the world and relating it to the promise God gave to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. It still applies today and she concluded by emphasizing how faithful God is to us.

Consent Agenda

There were no corrections or questions about the meeting minutes from February 2024 or the financial reports and there were no absences at this meeting. A motion was made to approve with a second to the motion and the Consent Agenda was passed.

Linkage

- FAB members Mike, Katie and Anders provided information regarding their backgrounds and their perspective on the role of the FAB. Additional member of the FAB, John Estes was unable to be present due to recovery from a health procedure.
- Mike opened by indicating he is a consultant by background with an undergraduate degree and an MBA. He followed a career path which led him into finance. He began attending HRAC after moving to Hood River in 2015. For him, the role of FAB is to focus on special projects (hiring as an example) and to provide development of a financial framework for financial processes, and mentioned the importance of audits to be sure processes are being followed.
- Katie has an undergraduate degree and also a post-grad degree, using that background to develop her own private practice and business. Her background also includes time as a committee chair for Young Life. She married Simon in 2012 and they have been attending HRAC since 2016. She wants to help install Best Practices information to our financial processes.

- Anders has an undergraduate degree and spent his first two years after school in public accounting. He also has experience in Young Life leadership and currently holds a position of department clerk and treasurer for the City of Stevenson (WA). He and his wife began attending HRAC in 2019 and in 2020 he was asked to become treasurer for HRAC. This concluded our linkage with the FAB and Katie and Mike were then excused.
- Pastor Keith proceeded to close this section of the meeting agenda with a reminder to communicate our assigned staff linkage experiences with each other and to be encouragers to our staff linkage partners. Next month our linkage guests will be with members of the HRAC youth groups and Kelsey will follow up with Youth Pastor Melissa Richardson to invite the guests.

Finance/facility Conversations

- There was a question about whether we can place some of the church General Expense funds into a money market account versus savings account in order to receive a better rate of return on the interest? Anders will present this to the FAB and report back at our next meeting in April.
- There was a question asked and answered about Youth Ministry expenses and why they appeared higher than other ministry expenses for the month of February.
- The facilities update list was discussed and specifically noted that new entry doors have already been budgeted for. A pending large expense item is the exterior painting of the gym.
- Simon commented on landscape bark and knows someone who may be willing to donate this. He will let us know.
- There was discussion about other list items, noting they would be “nice to have or do”, but nothing that appears to be a critical need right now. Comment was made and also discussed there may be some things that community groups may be able to help out with, depending on the level of expertise that may be required. It was determined we will lean into the FAB for recommendations.

Ministry Conversations

- Keith provided an update on the Childrens Ministry hiring process and noted a goal of being ready to post our opening the CM pastor by the end of next week. The search team will meet again on April 2 to finalize hiring questions for candidates and agree on the interview process. Connie Betts has been added to the search team.
- Potential for allowing a child care provider use of our building during the week has progressed to where a city/county administrator has approved the building for use,

but noting “if infants are included in the child care” then an additional exit door would need to be provided in the children’s wing of the building. Testing of the water quality and a fire marshal approval would still be needed. The Pro’s and con’s of HRAC allowing this to come about received detailed discussion and it was ultimately decided the timing of this right now is not a good fit for our current focus. The concept has merit and will most likely be re-visited in the future. Keith will provide this answer back to Amber Foster who is hoping to be the provider of child care.

- The Christian Community Policy was reviewed and will receive some minor edits.
- The Corrective Action policy was reviewed and deemed acceptable as is with no updating needed. It was moved to be accepted as is, seconded and the motion was passed for this document.
- It was decided to table review of the By Laws to the April meeting.
- We were encouraged by Keith to do the APEST questionnaire.
- We are starting on a book read – “Practicing the Way” by John Mark Comer and we will review the initial portions of it at our next meeting.
- Kelsey noted growth in youth group attendance and gave praise for that. We will be mindful and pray for this ministry and the pastor as she continues to develop it.

Church Life and Prayer

The rest of our meeting time was spent recognizing some specific prayer needs within the church membership and praying for the coming week’s sermon, which will also included devoted prayer time, inviting the Holy Spirit to be in control.