

Hood River Alliance Church - Governing Board Meeting Minutes – May 18, 2022

Pastor Seve Miller, Bob Spotts, Nancy Rinella, Joe Rinella, Illea Bouse, Ander Sorestad, Marty Miller and Eric Bokovoy were present.

Pastor Steve Miller opened the meeting at 7:05PM with Paul's prayer from Ephesians chapter 3, beginning at verse 14.

Pastor Steve gave recommendations for future reading and information for elders and board members regarding church governance, eldership and discipleship. He recommends "Gospel Centered Life" by Robert Thune and Will Walker, "Emotionally Healthy Leader" by Peter Scazzerro and "Gospel Eldership" by Robert Thune.

Minutes – the meeting minutes from April 13 2022 meeting were reviewed. Eric moved to accept them, Bob gave a second and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Anders reported congregational giving dropped for the month of April, to \$9600 from the \$10,000 8 week average. April is historically a drop month. To check it against possible future uncertainty, he looked at the first two weeks of May, which show much more normal giving amounts.

The treasury also took a one-time hit as former pastor Steve Grace turned in his FICA Expense all in one as opposed to spreading it out over the past year.

Anders reported another anonymous gift of \$10,000 to help with hiring a new Youth Pastor. It is uncertain whether the gift was "specifically" marked for this, or could be viewed as a gift to the general fund and more details about the gift will be researched. It was noted as intended to help with the need for a Youth Pastor, however. The gift was discussed and it was decided the church body should also be informed of the gift, along with best ways to communicate this and still inform the body there is still a need for overall month-to-month giving to increase in order to more fully meet the needs of the church. There has also been a gift of \$2,000 specified to be used for new computers.

Transition Team Report – the first church summit is viewed as a success. The diligent and hard work put in by the entire team preparing for the reconciliation forum held on Sunday May 15th was recognized.

The team and church are moving forward now to the task of mission and vision with a plan for the second church summit to occur on Sunday June 12th, 2022. The staff is working hard and working well together.

It was suggested a communication to the church body to update them on progress and timelines for the eventual hiring of a new lead pastor would be helpful. The Governance piece still needs to come together before the church will be ready to begin a search process for the new lead. All of this takes time.

Elder Report – Joe reported the elders met with Tina to discuss her sabbatical plan and offer encouragement. Her's was accepted as a good, thoughtful and valuable plan. The elders have also been meeting with the Transition Team, first to prepare for the reconciliation forum, and moving forward for further development of governance principals. Marty will join with them for this and possibly one other from the Governing Board, depending on schedules and flexibility in being able to meet.

As to the reconciliation forum itself, it was thought to be “an 8 out 10” not perfect, but highly successful in terms of presenting the full backdrop of conflict over the past year to any and all who were interested or curious about the details of it. There remains a concern whether “all sides” of the issues have fully accepted what they may bear as responsibility for the conflict. The idea for reaching out to and caring for current church staff was also presented.

Deacons – Eric reported the rehiring of John McCarty is already providing benefits to the church. He has made some complicated and needed repairs to a furnace and flooring that might have been costly otherwise. He is working 5 hours a week, thus far paying the church back for being compensated in the past ahead of the work performed. The west side of the church is being prepped for painting still to come and repairs to the exterior of Mod 3 is being planned for the fall of this year.

Deaconess – Nancy reports that she and Jayne Miller are just beginning a new planning season. There have been no funeral or memorial services as yet this year, pre-COVID style communion has just returned, and they need to have a meeting to encourage more volunteers to step into deaconess roles.

Policy & Procedures Committee– Bob gave a quick review for policies that had been developed for hiring, corrective actions, grievances and termination of employment matters. The work has been done, tabled pending any further advice from Vital Church. Noted that Tina had already begun to follow some of this work with success. Discussion about need to allow for any new lead pastor to have a future say in “chemistry” among staff versus need for “consent” from governance. It was decided the recommendations of the Policy and Procedures Committee drafts do sufficiently address this issue.

A move was made by Joe to accept the new policies as established by the committee, seconded by Marty and this was passed by unanimous vote.

By Laws Committee – it was acknowledged the Transition Team will be working with at least one elder and possibly another from the Governing Board on review of the current By Laws in the coming few weeks.

NEW BIZ - Youth Pastor update – Steve informed a new search committee has been formed, with hope of hiring a new Youth Pastor by the end of summer (this year). The committee consists of Adam and Grace Poole, Naomi Grimsley, John Olson and Paige Bennett. Others may be added. It should be communicated to prospective Youth Pastor candidates a skill-set needs to include the ability to not only recruit volunteers, but also to train them in discipleship. A job description should be finalized within the next few weeks. The committee will have a goal of posting the job opening by June 15th.

Mod 3 Mural – Steve moved to accept a proposal from the Sunshine Club to paint a mural on the north side of Mod 3, most likely flowers or generic landscape. Ilea seconded. Motion passed unanimously. It was hoped the artist will be local.

\$2,000 Donation for Computers – Eric made a motion to accept the \$2,000 gift for computers. Joe seconded. All approved and the motion was passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55PM.

(Editors note, though not officially voted and agreed upon, it was acknowledged that perhaps Jim Pennington would bring strawberry shortcake and ice cream to the July meeting).