

Hood River Alliance Church

November 16, 2022 Governing Authority Meeting Minutes

Bob Spotts, Gregg Caruso, Ilea Bouse, Nancy Rinella, Joe Rinella, Marty Miller and Anders Sorestad and Jim Pennington were present for the meeting. (Jim was a few short minutes late in arriving and might bring a basket of brownies to the January Governing Authority meeting to make up for it)

Opening

The meeting was opened at 7:10PM by Interim Lead Pastor Gregg Caruso with a passage from I Corinthians 13 verses 4-7. He expressed the desire for us to be an accepting church, though not an affirming church. When we as attendees, members of the church and members of the Governing Authority are nervous about something related to the church, it is a good impetus for us. He mentioned the book written by pastor Dave Lomus "The Truest Thing About You" as a good resource on this topic. Preston Sprinkle's writings on Right Now Media were also mentioned relative to "loving people into holiness".

Moments of prayer followed this opening.

The pre-meeting agenda was approved.

Excuse of Members

Eric Bokovoy asked and was granted an excused absence prior to the meeting by the meeting Facilitator Joe Rinella. Kaylene Baker was also not in attendance and tendered her resignation from the Governing Authority in advance of the meeting. The facilitator read her letter to him, the GA members discussed it and all who were present then accepted her resignation. It was decided at this point that Marty Miller would take the minutes of the next congregational meeting.

Consent Agenda

It was noted that Sunday church attendance has been steadily increasing, with both former regular attendees and new-to-the church attendees, joining the other regular attenders. Sunday School attendance has also increased. This was mentioned in front of budgetary concerns. The financial report is on par with the last 3-4 month average, so giving has not increased as yet, although it is steady. Nonetheless, giving does remain below budgeted. Expenses are also below budgeted, but some newer expenses in the area of Community Life Ministries were noted. Gregg mentioned our current payroll expenses are 58% of budget. A more desired level would be in the area of 50% and we will need to be forecasting payroll for a permanent lead pastor.

Current budget runs in the area of \$11,000 each month and giving is at \$8,000.

The Community Life Ministry expense item mentioned above was determined to be largely related to Right Now Media and it was decided this is being used, but perhaps underutilized.

It is yet to be determined who will present the financial report at the annual meeting.

There was also discussion about staff end-of-the year, Christmas bonuses.

Last, Eric in his Deacon report given to Joe recommended a plan for snow removal.

Joe moved to accept the Consent Agenda, Bob seconded his motion and the Consent Agenda was passed.

Generative

A date of December 14, 2022 was set for the next Governing Authority Meeting.

A date of December 11, 2022 was set for a staff, Governing Authority members and families was set for a Christmas gathering, to be held at the home of Melissa Ing.

The January 2023 Governing Authority meeting will be on January 18th. It was decided also to move ahead with plans for a January 29th congregational meeting.

Missionary Outcomes

Gregg has begun and is now moving away from the Vital Church report recommendations and turning the focus of church and staff to getting our ministries up and running. It was agreed the Vital Church recommendations have been followed and met, despite some lingering reconciliation needs. As a church, we have done what we can in this area. The question arose – what standards the Governing Authority should hold the Interim Lead Pastor accountable to. The discussion concluded by measuring him based on development and deployment of ministries so we can be attractive to an eventual permanent Lead Pastor.

Nominating Committee Update

A Nominating Committee meeting was held on November 15th. A list of nominees is being prepared and questions being made ready to ask prospects.

Staff determined there will be no year-end fundraiser held by the church, since year-end giving is historically good.

Dave Miles (Vital Church) email was mentioned as a follow-up to determine how things are going.

It was decided we (elders and/or lead pastor) will send one final communication to non-responders asking about the membership status. Joe will respond to one specific member who has a specific question related to membership.

Staff Job Descriptions

Tina's job description has been updated by Gregg. The template includes where it is going, her list of areas of responsibility and personal growth goals.

Laura's job description update is almost done and significant help has been provided by church member Erica Jones who has workplace responsibilities in the private sector related to Human Resources.

Kaylee has started work as Worship Coordinator/administrator to help organize worship related calendars and availability of help. Stephanie now has a mentor.

We need to give a specific thank you to the Transition Team for their work within the church.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15PM.