

Hood River Alliance Church

September 20, 2023 Governing Team Meeting Minutes

Mary Bokovoy, Eric Bokovoy, Melissa Ing, Anders Sorestad, Joe Rinella, Bob Spotts, Marty Miller, and Gregg Caruso were present. New hire lead pastor Keith Sietstra was also present via Zoom.

The meeting opened at 7:10 with intentional interim lead pastor Gregg providing a devotional about “equipping the saints”. He gave Matthew 4:21, Galatians 6:1, Hebrews 11:3 and I Thessalonians 1:10 as Biblical references to “mending the broken or torn, restoration, preparing and supply. The big idea is with the development of a consistent walk with Christ, going from where we have been, to where we want to be.

We then prayed.

I.) Approval of Agenda

- We had two items added to the agenda as originally presented. Joe mentioned the need for consistent making sure our By Laws match how we as a team refer to ourselves in other written and oral communication with the church. Accordingly, with Joe’s move, Mary gave a second to the motion and it was agreed by all to change any reference in the By Laws from “Governing Authority” to Governing Team”.
- The other item added, was to discuss and clarify what is meant by “unity” and whether a vote in opposition to motions, as they are passed, gives literal meaning to not be unified as a team. This was discussed, a distinction made between being unification and unanimity and we reached agreement about this.
- An adjustment to the August meeting minutes was made to remove detail considered unnecessary and too personal, so as to maintain confidentiality of others.
- Excuse of Members – Kelsey Strand was absent and excused by Gregg.
 - The minutes were approved.
 - The July and August Financial report was given.
 - The consent agenda then passed.

II.) Facilities Report

Eric provided a facilities report: The mods have been painted, the parking lot asphalt is scheduled to be re-sealed, the lawn has been cared for, the gym floor second sealing coat was completed, there is now a lock box on the sprinkler system, Butch Hunting is now working as a maintenance volunteer, and the current project is lights in mods 2 and 3. He noted there is a bit of an uptick in volunteerism, but help at the right time can still be hit & miss. Diligence for new exterior doors for the main building is on-going. Decisions and considerations for the future include repainting the gym, a check valve on the sprinkler system, whether to repair the ark or remove it, and whether to buy a mower for next year. The campus does currently have an issue with homeless people loitering and we are unprotected from problems that might arise because of this. We will post signs for “no Trespassing/loitering” as a first step to deal with the situation.

III. Calendar Items

- Next Governing Team Meetings will be Oct. 18, Nov. 15 and Dec. 13.
- We are hoping to invite Steve Fowler from Salem Alliance Church to meet with us and refresh us on Christian & Missionary Alliance policy governance and provide input on where we might be able to improve HRAC policy governance.
- Saturday Dec. 10th is designated as an afternoon fun day from 4:00 to 6:30

IV. Policy Papers

Discussion was continued and led by Joe from the August discussion about “position papers”. We have the first one in place regarding “politics” and our purpose to express Christian perspective as brothers and sisters. Future position papers will likely be forthcoming, but the elders have tabled them until Lead Pastor Keith has arrived.

V. Ministry Objectives

- Mary presented ideas and strategies – guardrails to keep us going in the right direction as a church and training for witnessing, ministry teams, equipping lay leaders. A handout was provided – “4 Strategies to Become a Servant Church”.
- Further discussion on CMA 101 class was tabled to the October GT meeting.
- Gregg gave concluding thoughts to how he has experienced HRAC as the intentional interim lead pastor. He is impressed with the overall caliber of people in the church body. The staff is strong and hard-working, worship is strong and uplifting, he noted the hard work that was put into restoration. In transition he encouraged us to listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying. There is work to be done in 1.) adding eldership, 2.) defining discipleship, 3.) multiplying community groups 4.) be diligent in communication 5.) seek to understand leadership style 6.) pay attention to size dynamics 7.) identify potential staff 8.) shifting lay leader responsibilities 9.) preaching team thoughts 10.) adopting schools in the community 11.) evangelism – contrasting priests and evangelists 12.) consider in the future a 30-question survey from Vitale Church and “identify quick wins”.
- Tabled items: Christmas Eve services – think about service times.
Mock membership class – have GT attend with prospects for leading these. Tim & Tina are working on an updated class.
Still looking for a social media manager and/or photo person.

VI Assessor

Joe as meeting assessor determined that nothing had been forgotten. We are inviting the Holy Spirit among us. We are unified.

We closed in prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 8:19PM

October 2, 2023 addendum

It is acknowledged and accepted by the Governing Team that the compensation package for new Permanent Lead Pastor Keith Sietstra includes a housing allowance of \$3,000 each month.