

Hood River Alliance Church

November 15, 2023 Governing Team Meeting Minutes

Kelsey Strand, Anders Sorestad, Keith Sietstra, Tina Combs, Mary Bokovoy, Marty Miller, Bob Spotts, Melissa Ing and Joe Rinella were present for the meeting.

The meeting opened at 7:05PM with a devotional provided by Kelsey. The devotional was derived from the book of Acts and chapter two – the breaking of bread and fellowship with each other. Could we live this way in contrast to how most live in present day and age? She noted work from Dallas Willard and his quote about special, evangelistic work and concluded with verses from John – whatever our plans or strategies, above all, love one another.

Consent Agenda

The minutes from the October meeting were reviewed, the financials we reviewed. All members of the Governing Team were present – there were no absences. Accordingly, the Consent Agenda was passed.

Calendar Items

Keith provided a calendar handout highlighting 2024 dates for each month, categorizing Board Evaluation, Lead Pastor Evaluation, Linkage and Other Business dates throughout the year. For December of 2023, our missionary objectives, linkage and housing allowances will be on the agenda. Suggestions & recommendations for Advent Conspiracy were discussed, approved and passed.

Finances and Budget

Questions about the hiring of a youth pastor and affordability were asked. Anders answered the questions, noting something had already been set aside in savings for this eventuality. It was suggested if possible for future meetings, if graphing of finances is possible, it might help illustrate where we are with finances.

Action Item Reports

Mary reached out to HRAC office administrator and the weekday tenant of Mod 1 about our outdoor signage. A city authority also added clarity that signs related to loitering or trespassing are not necessary. It was agreed perhaps one simple sign directing visitors to the church office helps.

Related to our October discussion on staff, it was noted one staff member has endured several changes in direct management since coming on board, and is not comfortable asking others to take on tasks that can be done quickly and simply by that same individual,

It is noted there has been no formal meeting as yet with the safety team and this is still pending.

The resignation of our custodial staff was rescinded and she will remain on staff.

Kelsey checked with Childrens Ministry Leader Kim about that job description and now is the time to listen and give more attention to her. She has a well written out description of the job. For future, she likes being involved, not in-charge as much.

Missional Objectives

We took a moment for prayer and to give thanks and recognition to Tina for her work and efforts for Hood River Alliance Church.

Preparation for the annual church business meeting was discussed and the date for this set at February 4, 2024. Logistics and assembling the needed information for this along with the presentation of material were included in the discussion. Items noted particularly, the Nominating Team and names for this were submitted and discussed. Follow up on these names is noted as an Action Item for the December meeting. There will be 2 from the Governing Team on the Nominating Committee.

The Lead Pastor report provided an update on the Youth Pastor search, the team is ready to recommend one candidate, there is a last minute app from a qualified candidate to review and follow-up on, The hope and desire is to make an offer prior to December 16th, 2023. Membership class plans are proceeding on schedule for class on Dec. 6th. The desire for all GT members to be present for this was expressed. The Lead Pastor report concluded with discussion on balance and definition of roles between elders and Governing Team members and whether any change in By Laws wording is needed.

Ministry Objectives

Our discussion on ministry objectives began with prayer. It continued immediately after prayer with a note of gratitude and celebration – a response to what is being observed by us in the church – the nodding of heads on Sunday morning, new hands stepping out to help in given areas, seeing others be welcoming to people they don't know, staying after service longer, the worship team standing out, moms in prayer, non-family members reaching out to youth or new believers, a growing community, a fresh skill set with our Lead Pastor Keith and last but not least the congregational response in grace to a recent difficult staffing decision.

We are moving to communicate, train and develop lay leaders. Staff will lead the lay leaders. We need to pay attention to the appreciation piece and the welcoming process to leadership with an outward focus on the big picture. We want to be aware of the pain within our Hood River community, and be relational. The Alliance Great Commission fund was mentioned. There was discussion about making these MO's measurable and it was noted that "Prayer is all over this".

Discussion continued with relationships in or not in designated "community group" and this was distinguished between being "in community".

These are summed up with 1.) Building a path to train & lead leaders 2.) Community Group focus and intentionality 3.) Structure and system in understanding how we go after this setting a 3-5 year vision and then walking back to staff on the "how". There was a suggestion on having a smaller group put this discussion into focus and the Action Item is to determine how and who to begin to formulate this. Melissa, Kelsey, Keith and Anders formed this team.

Assesor

One MO not discussed specifically – but thoroughly covered in the evening discussions was Gregg Caruso's observations as the HRAC intentional interim pastor, which left for us as he departed. We then agreed we listened to the Holy Spirit, the items discussed that need to be kept confidential and we were unified.

After a concluding prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 9:22PM.