

Hood River Alliance Church

April 19-2023 Governing Team Meeting Minutes

Anders Sorestad, Kelsey Strand, Gregg Caruso, Marty Miller, Melissa Ing, Bob Spotts, Mary Bokovoy and Joe Rinella were present.

The meeting was opened at 7:06PM by intentional interim pastor Gregg Caruso.

Devotional

Gregg provided a devotional based on I Timothy 4:15-16, reminding us God is not after perfection so much as he is after progress. The good news of the gospel will go forth when we follow Him. His purpose is to cut to the heart and need to be willing to address questions asked by unbelievers and people who are seeking.

Quantitative indicators of this are attendance, numbers of students in our ministries, number of community groups, staff expense ratio, conversions & baptisms, giving statistics and prayer. Qualitative indicators are more subjective, based on how things feel around us, unity, boldness, is there the “aroma” of Christ, singing, is there evidence of the fruit of the Spirit and a humble willingness to follow leadership. He noted the buzz around our praying during a recent sermon when the congregation broke into small groups for this.

This is all a reminder of why the Governing Team exists and meets and noted the consent agenda is sent out ahead of the meeting so we can read it and come prepared to meet.

Consent Agenda

March Meeting Minutes were in our packet. There were no excused members and no absentees for this meeting. Financial reports were reviewed. It was noted our Easter attendance was 418. Mary moved to pass the Consent Agenda, Kelsey provided a second to the motion and the Consent Agenda passed.

Lead Pastor Search Team

Gregg provided an update and there was discussion on the profile for the permanent Lead Pastor position. The discussion outlined what potential candidates will see on the web, a questionnaire they will complete, resumes, and cover letter planning. He mentioned the CMA district is happy with what they see happening currently at HRAC. Candidates can be asked about things such as expository preaching versus other forms. It was suggested in the cover letter that multi-cultural wording be included and whether or not to include or minimize mention of the recreational abundance of the Columbia River Gorge.

Withing this section, Gregg also mentioned several names within the church body to pay attention to as candidates for Governing Team members in the future. An update was provided on an incident report given by an HRAC regular attender, who had made an individual complaint recently to Vital Church. The

matter had been looked into by Vital Church via a Zoom meeting with those involved and concerned by the matter and it was resolved. It was indicated one involved apologized for an over-enthusiastic greeting on a particular Sunday before service and the other person involved also accepted they may have over-reacted to the greeting. There was further discussion about the need for the Governing Team to meet with this same individual on matters concerning to the church as a whole and unrelated to this incident. Who and why it would be necessary to meet with this person was the context of the discussion.

Calendar

- May 17th was the targeted date for a Vital Church update.
- Steve Fowler from Salem Alliance church was mentioned as a potential facilitator for a future day for staff retreat.
- Stephanie Tama-Sweat was mentioned as the likely individual for linkage at our May Governing Team meeting.

Christian Community Policy

- There was discussion about the need for written policy concerning building and property use at HRAC. The purpose would be to clarify church policies regarding use of the grounds and buildings to avoid potential for inconsistent treatment of community members who do use our amenities. The question would be where the policy itself would reside. Nothing was finalized on this subject.
- Kelsey agreed to work with Katie (member of the congregation) on a pay-range packet as part of the new Lead Pastor process and preparation.

Ministry Objectives

Gregg provided an extensive 3-page highlight for his February and March activities and progress. The report covers a wide range of activities, from ongoing oversight of changes in our evolving congregation and shift away from consumerism as a church body, updating job descriptions, getting to and thru Easter, getting the Pastoral Search Team up and running, the all-church fast, attendance, working on hospitality/connections, planning adult education/Sunday School, the tech team, the worship community, preaching team, future classes (discipleship, membership, baptism, gifts), working with Eric Bokovoy on facilities, and launching the new Financial Advisory Team. Other items he has not been as directly involved in were also noted in his hand-out.

Communication & Counsel

- Gregg noted the Financial Advisory Board is of great help.
- There was extensive discussion about a new all-church survey – what to ask, how to ask it and reasons for one.

Assessment – It was indicated all is well with the team and we're unified. Prayer closed the meeting at 9:06PM.