

Hood River Alliance Church

December 13, 2023 Governing Team Meeting Minutes

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

The meeting opened at 7:07PM with Anders leading us in prayer. He proceeded with a devotional for the evening based on scripture from 1 Peter 1:22-23 and included quotes from Joseph Hellerman and Phillip Yancey. He noted from this what deep love looks like in a church. And he then acknowledged and gave thanks to Joe and to Bob for their service on the GT and for enduring a particularly difficult season and guiding the church thru it. He also noted the church budget and noted our invitation here to press into giving the budget and the budget process to God, To place our trust in Him and to look to Him for our guidance.

Consent Agenda

- A spelling correction and amendments to more accurate terminology were made to the Nov. 2023 meeting minutes.
- We gave approval for updating the housing allowance for Lead Pastor Keith, and Anders also mentioned a budgetary item to move more funds out of our checking account and into the savings account.
- Keith moved to accept the Consent Agenda, Mary gave a second to the motion and the Consent Agenda was passed.

Fiduciary Conversations

- There was discussion and appreciation for the financial reporting graphs and the effort Anders put into this. The total number of donars to the church, the percent of giving units as compared to the total church attendance were noted and also noted as being down slightly from summer months. It was also noted the early summer months saw a rise, perhaps spurred the sermon series on giving. Staff has kept expenses in check, with the result being a current Y-T-D surplus of \$52,816, giving compared to spending.

- The inclusion of health insurance for the incoming Youth Pastor was noted, otherwise the Youth Pastor expense is the same for the incoming as it had been for the recently departed Youth Pastor.
- Lead Pastor Keith was dismissed from the room for a period of time as the GT discussed Christmas bonusing for church staff. After excellent discussion and conferring, a proposal was made, Joe made a motion to approve Christmas bonusing, Marty gave a second to the motion and the motion was passed.

2024 HRAC Proposed Budget

- Anders and Keith led lively and robust discussion on this topic, noting up front they and the Financial Advisory Board began the budget process by first listening to church staff. After that, they examined financial capacity of the church. A budget was prepared based on what is currently needed and compared to what the church might “hope for” with acknowledgment the desire is to allow the Holy Spirit room to do His work – for the church to step out in faith and trust God.
- It was noted with staff, line expense items and available “to spend” but not necessarily all of it will be spent. The desire to allow staff what is needed to carry out missional objectives within their area of responsibility was endorsed. Line item expenses are identified and money then, for properly equipping ministries in the church.
- The proposed budget received line-by-line discussion. Highlighting this was our desire to be thoughtful and intentional in funding areas related to core church values, such as community and missions. It was suggested we think about having a formal “missions committee” form.
- The bottom line of the budget acknowledged giving over the last 6 months and projected that into the future. Giving is lower than at start of summer, but recognition attendance is increasing and new attendees are not yet giving.

Generative Conversations

- The Nominating Committee has reviewed a list of 20 names for eldership, had 9 conversations with candidates and will meet again on January 2nd.

- Staff Assignments – Keith noted Laura’s excellent skill-set for facilities care and has assigned her as a point staff person for lay-leaders to check in and confer with on building maintenance matters.
- Membership – it was noted the Ingersoll’s have moved to Utah and applied for membership at a CMA church there.
- Also on the topic of membership, there was discussion about baptism and what our membership requirement might be, relative to the feedback form used by us in membership applications. There was nothing finalized or conclusive on this discussion.
- Board / Staff linkage was discussed and it was decided each member of the GT will be in care of a staff person. Melissa will care for Kim, Mary will care for Laura, Marty will care for Tim, and Kelsey will care for incoming Youth Pastor Melissa.

Missional Objectives

- Under Missional Objectives – Mary highlighted what relationship building within the church should look like. To “know others and be known by others” and finding or creating spaces to deepen relationships. She provided a handout to identify Vision, and following from that, 6 goals.

Vision will be to cultivate a culture of “Practicing the Way of Jesus” together in community

Following this, the 6 objectives are: 1.) Create a “Rule of Life” that we will pursue together as a church that we believe leads to the **Abundant Life** found only in **abiding** in Jesus. 2.) Re-focus & re-frame existing structures & ministries towards the vision. 3.) Pursue clarity and commitment to our leadership structure. 4.) Building groundwork and practices as leaders that are intentional towards an Ephesians 4 church. 5.) Committed to being a sending community and 6.) We will purposefully use our facility/campus to facilitate community.

Assessment

- As we were asked what are we hearing from the Holy Spirit, a question arose and we discussed whether there was room to add new recipients of our Advent Conspiracy. At least for this season, not to do so, but additional giving into other causes should be encouraged.
- There was also discussion about what to do with current budget surplus and determined to keep in mind for future needs.

- Several topics noted on the agenda were tabled for next meeting.
- All agreed – we felt unified after the discussions of the evening.

Joe closed us in prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 9:44PM.