

Hood River Alliance Church

Governing Team Meeting Minutes – May 17, 2023

Gregg Caruso, Kelsey Strand, Melissa Ing, Marty Miller, Joe Rinella, Bob Spotts and Anders Sorestad were all present for the meeting.

Devotional

The meeting began at 7:13PM with a devotional from intentional interim pastor Gregg based on the teaching from I Timothy 4 versus 15 and 16. He noted this as “fatherly advice” with enthusiasm about “re-breaking the 200 barrier”, which may be the most difficult barrier to get through for a church, speaking in terms of membership and attendance. He noted progress is evident at HRAC and also noted we should pay attention to the six things that need to happen to break the barrier. 1.) push down decision making 2.) a willingness for others to get the credit for it 3.) scalable pastoral care (number of community groups can be a measure for this) 4.) Governing Team focus on Policy Management 5.) An outreaching, outward focus and 6.) A bias toward what is possible (risk). Gregg mentioned people in the church need to want to do this – to become inviting and welcoming. We pray that God would trust us with salvations. Gregg’s feeling is we are destined to become a large church based on our market area, our facilities and our church location. He noted our Sunday morning worship has been good for a long time.

A discussion of the many assets as well as reasons for past success of HRAC ensued.

We prayed.

Excuse of Members

Mary Bokovoy was absent and excused.

Consent Agenda

- The April meeting minutes were reviewed.
- Anders gave a March/April update on finances, noting we show improvement for this period compared to the same period in 2022, acknowledging a one-time gift last year during this time skewed the result. Three more giving units were added, there is still room to grow but good trends are happening. The Financial Advisory Board has met twice and a third meeting planning shortly. Numbers on giving from the church survey were reviewed.

Board Governance

- Updating on a regular attender of some controversy relating to personal identity - Kelsey had met with the Associate Pastor and with Gregg to establish a format for discussion with this individual and provide a perception on how the attender is being experienced by others. Sitting in women’s ministry leadership then gave a different perception on the matter. There

proceeded to be discussion and questions about objectivity of our approach and reaching full understanding of our main goal. The group interest is also in knowing the back-story of the individual. The concern is based on possible motivations/agenda the individual may have in attending HRAC.

- Gregg encouraged our connecting with potential elder candidates – with specific names noted.
- Stephanie Tama-Sweet is mentioned as our possible linkage candidate at next months meeting.
- Kelsey will meet with Katie (church member) on defining a salary package for a new Lead Pastor.
- Calendar – it was decided the Governing Team will not meet in August.
- Lead pastor evaluation – Joe provided feedback obtained from the elders and immediate past members of the governing team to Gregg. He prefaced the review by noting how the information was compiled and processed. Gregg received a favorable review with many of his positive attributes highlighted. There was also feedback given for areas that Gregg can give attention to for improvement. It was also noted, in the future when evaluations are given to the Lead Pastor, any items for improvement will be followed up on at given set intervals.
- An increase in payment to Vital Church was discussed and all agreed to an increase. The only question was “how much” and Anders will let us know what the budget can provide.

- Our banking, needed updating. Specifically, for the Columbia Bank/Umpqua Bank Unemployment Savings Account ending in *1813, it was voted on and approved to remove the names of John Blosser, Karola Aleckson and Gretchen Goss. Along with this it was voted on and approved to add President (Joe Rinella), Secretary (Marty Miller) and Office Manager (Laura Garcia-Rangel) to the Columbia Bank/Umpqua Bank Unemployment Savings Account ending in *1813, effective immediately.

- Update on Steve Fowler and a possible board meeting dinner was discussed, and subject to his schedule.
- Joe advanced a proposal for a Christian Community Policy for the church, not to be part of the By Laws, but perhaps in the church handbook or as a position paper. This would address various uses and their purposes of the church building and grounds. We reviewed, nothing was decided on it just yet.

Missionary Objectives

- Gregg noted his objectives are similar to his objectives from April.
- Tina is completing the job description for Laura and will have it soon.
- The progress of the Lead Pastor Search Team had slowed in recent weeks, but the goal still is for launching the search by May 22nd.
- Candy Pritchard is doing a good job as worship team coordinator, Edwin is doing well as part time help and maintenance on the grounds and within the building. Paige is coming on as help in Childrens Ministries. Anders leadership with the FAB was noted and appreciated by Gregg. We will have a membership class following church services on June 4th. Gregg gave a report on the data collected from the church survey.

Assessment

- It was agreed, we had listened to the Holy Spirit.
- It was agreed to hold in confidence our discussions of salary and the discussion on the attender drawing concern from leadership and other members.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13PM