

Hood River Alliance Church

October 18, 2023, Governing Team Meeting Minutes

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

The meeting opened at 7:02PM with Lead Pastor Keith providing a devotional from Luke chapter 5 and also passages from the book of Acts related to Jesus calling of the disciples, telling them (us) “don’t be afraid”. He gave us 8 exhortations and summarized the devotional with the message that our goal is not to sit back in comfort, but to keep moving, faithfully, courageously, and dangerously, to make disciples who make disciples.

We prayed.

I. Consent Agenda

- Bob Spotts was excused.
- There was a question about the minutes from the September meeting related to the September discussion about outdoor signage on and around the church property and whether such signage would be in conflict with our desire to be an inviting church. This concluded with the acknowledgment there is currently only one sign, located in the area of the mods, it is appropriate for the location and in consideration of the Sunshine Club who is a tenant in one of the mods and does not conflict with our church core values. Eric Bokovoy will follow up on this.
- Relative to the Financial Report, there was a question about whether the annual budget is updated or not. It was answered no, it is set prior to the annual church business meeting, in anticipation of church needs throughout the fiscal year and in particular, as we get this late in the year, there is no effort made except for the development of next year’s budget.
- It was noted that an application has been received for the open position of Youth Pastor from what appears to be a well-qualified candidate. This led to a renewed discussion about an all-in-one “family pastor” who might oversee youth, middle school and children’s ministries all three. This left us with an **Action Item** to follow up with current children’s ministry pastor Kim to gather input on the thought.

Keith acknowledged he had not yet been provided the weekly attendance for Sundays since our last Governing Team meeting.

Mary moved to accept the Consent Agenda, Kelsey provided a second to the motion and the Consent Agenda was passed.

II. Calendar Items

The next GT meeting will be November 15th and we will have a GT and church staff, and families Christmas get-together at Melissa's house on December 10th.

III. Ministry Objectives

- Keith noted custodial engineer Mirian is resigning. He will follow up with Tina about replacing her. It was commented what an outstanding job she does for the church keeping it clean and tidy.
- An updated from the security team was provided and led to discussions about the side doors being locked and also moving forward – whether we need to collect backpacks at the doors on Sundays, again, whether this conflicts with the core value of being an inviting church. This was weighed against the need for proper security and ultimately, who oversees the security team and the level of authority the security team has in establishing these guidelines. It was acknowledged the security team comes under pastor Keith's responsibility, and noted the team has put a lot of thought and effort into what they do. Nothing has been established yet as "set procedure" and they are very open to feedback and thoughts of others within the church body and church governance.

IV. Governing Team Purpose and Roles

The remainder of the meeting was set aside to guide and clarify our role within the church as well as roles within the Governing Team. Highlighting: 1.) we fulfill the legal requirement of the church By Laws. 2.) we regularly review and uphold church policies 3.) we build trust among GT members and leaders 4.) we help create ministry objectives 5.) we tend to the housekeeping items of the financial budget, minutes and security 6.) we hold the Lead Pastor accountable 7.) we help with vision casting and implementation 8.) with linkages, we listen to church staff (distinguished from "fixing" problems within) 9.) the elders lead, shepherd and oversee discipline, doctrine and spiritual direction, they provide care within the church and also provide the Lead Pastor Assessment.

The primary role of the GT is in representing the church body - facilitating communication within.

V. Linkage

There was no staff linkage at this meeting.

VI. Assessment

Joe gave the assessment, and it was acknowledged we did do soul maintenance with the Holy Spirit. We are unified and it was agreed upon, the items of discussion that are confidential.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49PM.