

# Garden City Community Church Council of Trustees Meeting

February 4, 2025

Virtually

## *COT voting members present:*

Kirsten Bahlke	COT Chair
Cindy Campbell	Ministry Committee
Tim Martens III	At Large - AV
Karin Melkonian	Program Committee, Connections
Tara Noll–Socha	Program Committee, Education
Robin Laisure	Finance & Administration Committee

## *Nonvoting officers of the church present:*

Viki Rehkugler	Information Officer
----------------	---------------------

## *Officers absent*

Joe Stanco	Treasurer
------------	-----------

## *Clergy present:*

Rev. Bonnie McDougall Olson

The meeting was called to order at 7:33pm

**Opening Prayer** was led by Rev. Olson.

The minutes of the Council of Trustees meeting conducted on January 22, 2025 were approved.

- Discuss updates on slate
  - [2025 Standing Committees](#)
    - The group is waiting to hear back from Melva Victorino.
    - Suzanne Roche is confirmed to be on the slate as part of COT and Chair of Programming – Service.
    - Ministry co-Chair nominations would be Maria Campese and Janet Martens.
    - Liz McQuaid will serve on the Service Committee.
    - Information Officer and Membership Chair need nominees.
      - Karin is still trying to connect with Doug Dieterich. ACTION: Tim Martens will reach out.
  - [2025 COT](#)

- Annual Meeting – February 23 – Viki will preside as Information Officer, with other COT members supporting Zoom admittance/attendance, etc.
  - ACTION: Viki to send notes/run of show for the Annual meeting
  - Tim to help work with Steve to ensure we can use the laptop on the balcony to run Zoom
- Installation timing – could be any of the weeks following the annual meeting, as part of a service. ACTION: Rev. Olson suggested the Council coordinate with her and Rev. Livingston.
- Review wording of proposed by-law changes
  - [Click here for proposed wording](#)
    - ACTION: COT member feedback by tomorrow, Wednesday, February 5.
    - Reference: [Section 170 of Religious Corporation Law](#)
- Confirm plan for sharing budget and by-law changes ahead of annual meeting
  - Budget should be finalized now and needs to be distributed.
  - Sunday, February 9 information session in the ~~Parlor~~ Kensington Room– more casual
  - Sunday, February 16 – a more formal walkthrough of the budget. ACTION: Kirsten will confirm that Joe is available.
  - ACTION: Kirsten to provide working for Gloria send a dedicated email including the proposed By-Laws as a link, and a reminder of the sessions where people can attend and learn more information about that and the budget. Gloria can create a Zoom link for February 16.
- Round robin updates
  - F&A – Robin gave a summary of the F & A meeting held on January 27, 2025:
    - Zachary Warhurst is reviewing investment policy, based on how we’ve been exceeding withdrawals on investments in recent years.
    - Budget notes:
      - FEMA COVID grant received.
      - New minister is budgeted for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2025. Minister expenses are slightly lower in the first 3 quarters as a result.
      - All Employees received a 3.5% Cost of Living increase
      - Investment Portfolio ended at \$3.9 million (7.4% return rate). Down from 2024 \$4.138 million.
      - Drew recirculated the Paul Nixon report about what the church focus should be and what the trends are across the country.
      - Liz Galzerano is looking into opening a line of credit.
      - The budget for supporting the livestream of services was only increased by \$2,500, which was flagged as below the proposal Steve Short had presented earlier in the year. ACTION: Tim will follow up with Steve and ask him to recirculate the proposal and totals of what is needed for 2025.
      - Viki asked about the discussion in the annual meeting of the budget and whether we’ve changed budget lines historically. It was discussed that this is unusual but possible.
  - Personnel – Karin

- Next Committee meeting is on Tuesday. Topics include Personnel performance review. ACTION: Robin will send Karin her past materials.
- Ministry -
  - February 16 is the next meeting and Cindy's last
  - Cindy is providing a binder to the next leaders
  - Robin and the group extended their gratitude to Cindy for her dedication
- AV / Tech – Tim
  - Vimeo – “Followers” is a puzzle. Tim talked to Doug, and Doug noted that this is on a page that will no longer host the services, so it won't be relevant soon.
  - Doug is figuring out why services haven't posted since December, and targeting the end of February for a solution that ensures previous services can be found on the church website.
- All others
  - Rev. Olson shared updates on the membership inquiry class.
    - There was also discussion about getting involvement from the college student visitors.
  - Rev. Olson is aware of a Metro Association Zoom meeting bringing together churches without pastors. She will forward to COT. February 13, 7pm. It includes a Q&A on church finances.
- Education updates ([Jan](#) and [Feb](#)) - Tara and Rev. Olson
  - [1 session Communion class document](#)
    - This is grades 4 to 7, usually offered every 2 years.
    - Tara presented the proposal of Rev. John consolidating 4 sessions to 1 session (March 9 is Rev. Livingston's proposal).
      - April 6 First Communion with Rev. Livingston
      - Bonnie is March 30 (this was a switch)
      - The COT had no objections.
    - May 4 for Confirmation Sunday – Communion the same Sunday could be too much.
  - 2 volunteers were secured for February 16 (holiday weekend without formal Sunday school)
  - Sunday School is extending to the end of June. Children's Sunday would be the second Sunday in June
  - 2 Summer Fundays in July and August, and 2 Family nights.
  - ACTION: After sharing details about the VBS program (running 4 days from 9:30am-12pm at the end of June/beginning of July), Tara made a motion to increase the fee for VBS from \$25 to \$50 per child for the summer of 2025. Robin seconded. Motion carried.
    - For families with more than 2 children, the total paid will be capped at \$100.
  - Does the Sunday school & youth group need COT permission to execute Fundraisers for outside charities? I.e. California wildfires, continued support of Pastor Tim's church mission work (from last year's Mission Trip.)
    - Robin mentioned a previous “rule” of the COT that a portion of funds raised as a fundraiser go to the Church.

- The intended fundraisers for this year (for Pastor Tim and California wildfires) are approved to go forward without contributions back to the church.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, February 19 at 7:30pm

Meeting was adjourned at 9:21pm

Respectfully submitted,

Viki Rehkugler

Information Officer