

Garden City Community Church
Minutes of the Council of Trustees

September 11, 2024

In-Person (Parlor, 245 Stewart Ave.) and via Zoom

COT voting members present:

Kirsten Bahlke, Chair

Robin B. Laisure

Cynthia Campbell (via Zoom)

Tim Martens III

Karin Melkonian

Tara Noll-Socha

Nonvoting officers of the church present:

Joe Stanco, Treasurer

Victoria Rehkugler, Information Officer

Kirsten opened the meeting with prayer at 7:30pm.

Minutes from the August 19, 2024, COT meeting were previously approved electronically.

Confirmation Classes -

Tara reported that seven families last Spring expressed an interest in having their children take part in confirmation classes. More recently, these same families were contacted to ask if they would prefer a one or two-year commitment. Only three families responded, and they were not in agreement. Due to the small number (three) of potential children for a confirmation class, COT discussed whether to hold back the eighth-grade youth and start in ninth grade. Hopefully, we will have a new minister by then.

Motion: to skip this year of confirmation for the eighth grade so that there will be no new confirmation class until Fall of 2025. Motion passed unanimously. COT did not make a decision about whether the class would run for one or two years. Tara will speak with Amanda who can reach out to families.

Amanda's contract –

Currently, Amanda works 25 hours per week (100 per month) with 75% of her time doing administrative duties. She is hoping to get a full-time job as a clinical social worker. If she does, she wants to work 10 hours per week, but she prefers non-administrative tasks such as leadership. COT discussed if Amanda does not have the confirmation class, then perhaps she does two hours of administrative work.

Motion – to approve drafting a new contract for Amanda that provides 10 hours per week, which we can draft now but execute the contract when she starts her new job. The contract would state that both parties may unilaterally terminate the contract but must give two months' notice. Seconded and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Joe reported that Hugh Lacy shared with F & A last Monday night pictures and explanations of the repairs for water leaks. The repairs cost \$52,000. Robin had sent to COT the detailed report and pictures that Hugh provided F & A.

Joe distributed Financial Summary Highlights, dated August 31, 2024. We have 77 pledged units, which translates into \$212,000 pledged. We lost five donors recently due to death, resignation from the church, and illness.

Three people are forming a stewardship team – Paula Tusiani-Eng, Martha Yasso, and Jill Emmer. A meeting is being arranged for Friday to speak by zoom.

Hugh Lacy told F & A that more repairs will be needed, but he did not yet have specifics. Also, the smoke alarms are being replaced, gradually.

Executive Session –

COT went into Executive Session to discuss Rev. Arlen's contract.

Motion -

A motion was made and seconded not to renew Rev. Arlen's contract which was scheduled to expire on October 31, 2024. 4 voted in favor, 2 opposed. Motion carried.

Personnel committee-

It was decided that Karin will serve as interim Personnel Chair. Kirsten has the ad for a Personnel Chair and will circulate soon.

The meeting adjourned at 9:53pm.

Submitted by Robin B. Laisure