

# Garden City Community Church Council of Trustees Meeting

12/3/2024

In Person at 245 Stewart  
And Virtually on Zoom

## *COT voting members present:*

Kirsten Bahlke	COT Chair	In-person
Cindy Campbell	Ministry Committee	In-person
Karin Melkonian	Program Committee, Connections	In-person
Robin Laisure	Finance & Administration	Virtual
Tara Noll-Socha	Program Committee, Education	Virtual
Tim Martens	At Large- AV	Virtual, 8:30pm

## *Nonvoting officers of the church present:*

Viki Rehkugler	Information Officer	In-person, 8pm
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## *COT voting members absent:*

## *Officers absent:*

Joe Stanco	Treasurer
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The meeting was called to order at 7:50pm.

**Education Programming:** Caroling is scheduled for 12/7. 4 families are planning to visit 4 houses.

**Finance Report:** In Joe's absence, Robin reported the latest of the Stewardship Campaign: \$190,000 in pledges, 59 units.

**Personnel Committee Report:** Karin and Joe are meeting with Tara, Amanda, and Pastor Bonnie to talk about Bonnie's role with Education.

**Volunteers/Openings:** The positions were advertised. 2 individuals indicated interest, and Kirsten reached out. ACTION: Karin to follow up to arrange for further connection in January.

**Annual Meeting:** The Bylaws require the meeting within the first two months of the year. Based on the President's Day holiday schedule, a decision was made to target February 23. ACTION: Place a hold on church calendar.

There was a discussion about the budget presentation. The budget would be prepared ahead of time, and February 9 and 16th could be held for Q&A during Fellowship.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Council of Trustees meeting conducted on November 9. Motion carried.

**By-Laws Review:**

Proposed changes would be summarized and presented alongside the budget. Ideally, we provide a red-line copy of the Bylaws with the proposals.

There was discussion about the proposed short term and long term changes ([LINK TO DOC HERE](#)).

Short Term (Feb 2025):

1. remove 2/3 vote (everywhere or in certain actions)
  - ACTION: Robin was assigned to review the Bylaws content about voting and percentages
2. Define “member in good standing”
3. Make Information Officer and Treasurer voting members
4. Codify virtual voting

Discussion of some of the long term changes:

1. Committee structure and sizes - Revs. John Livingston and Bonnie McDougall Olson may be able to provide guidance.
2. Baptism requirement: To manage the barrier of proof of baptism (for adults who may no longer have the paperwork), Robin suggested that all adults joining the church have a ceremony of baptism, eliminating the requirement that proof of Baptism in another church is necessary. She added that this would allow for greater inclusivity of those who had not previously been baptized in a Christian church.

Follow up meeting:

Robin is away January 4 to January 20.

- The next meeting was set for Wednesday, January 8 at 7:30pm, with the following January 22 at 7:30pm.

ACTION: Kirsten will invite Revs. John and Bonnie and share the edited Bylaws.

Karin raised the question of hosting a New Member Sunday and mentioned that Rev. John said he would lead or attend. She proposed setting it up in January. ACTION: Kirsten to follow up with Rev. John about a New Member Sunday.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Viki Rehkugler