

Garden City Community Church Council of Trustees Meeting

Date July 15, 2024

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

COT voting members present:

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

Nonvoting officers of the church present:

Viki Rehkugler	Information Officer	In-person
Joe Stanco	Treasurer	In-person (7:45)

Members absent

Karin Melkonian	Program Committee, Connections
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The meeting was called to order at 7:39pm.

The minutes of the Council of Trustees meeting conducted on July 1, 2024 were approved.

FYIs/Updates:

- Program Committee, Education: Confirmation – Tara
 - Based on research of other churches in the area that has found a 1 year program for 8th graders, Tara has been working on a proposal for the next new Confirmation class to be a 1-year program. The one-year program would have more requirements.
 - Current Confirmation Class enrollees (~7) would be in their second year, and an additional new class of about the same size would be started up. There was discussion about keeping the current participants informed about the updates.
 - Tara will provide a motion when details are more finalized
- Flag pole updates – Tim
 - Flag pole and bases have been ordered for the existing American and UCC flags
 - Georgia Bashian and Steve Short funded the purchase.
 - Flag store in Lindenhurst will handle the mounting.
- Livestream equipment updates – Tim

- \$40K project that covers the Parlor, Chapel, and Sanctuary. A goal is to make the system more user-friendly for the operator – handled from a central console.
 - Steve Short would like to give a tour and detailed explanation at a future COT meeting
- Ministry Committee – Cindy
 - While Arlen is away, Rev. Kit is on call
- Financial update – Joe
 - The June Financial Dashboard was not yet ready, but Joe shared some highlights about how the budget is on track.
 - 77 pledging units, 13 given 100%, 54 are giving, 10 have paid 0 but are likely to pay at year end. Overall we are only 1.7% off where we should be.
- Finance & Administration Committee - Additional Expenditure – Robin
 - Hugh Lacy sought proposals for a project of fixing leaks that are going into the basement.
 - F&A approved funding for the project and awarded after receiving bids. So far, the project is halfway done, and the costs are running higher than initially expected. Robin will ask for information about what changes between the initial estimate and the current proposal.
 - There was discussion about comparing against other estimates.
- Electronic voting and special meeting on September 26, 2021 to approve Election Buddy or equivalent – Viki
 - Viki reminded the COT of the special procedure that the Congregation voted on for in person and virtual voting.
 - There was a discussion of the precedent around electronic voting and New York’s subsequent amendment to allow electronic voting for religious corporations.
 - The September 26, 2021 resolution specifically calls out the availability of a secret ballot.
 - There was discussion about how the congregation is made aware of this procedure. Robin confirmed that the minutes from the Special Meeting were emailed out to the Congregation on September 27, 2021.
 - The Council agreed that it makes sense to post the procedure on the [website](#) with the Bylaws.
- Stewardship – Joe
 - There was discussion about how to get attention to Stewardship and who would be promising to lead or participate.
 - Kirsten suggested a task force brainstorm new ideas for fundraising, which Joe will follow up on.
- Council of Trustees openings – Personnel, Service, and Membership Chairs
 - Personnel Committee Chair job description still needs work. Kirsten will send to the other members of the committee.
 - Viki has begun the job description for Membership Chair.

- Kirsten proposed we send all three job descriptions out and see if anyone in the Congregation is interested.
 - Addressing questions from the congregation about the COT progress, votes, etc.
 - The Council agreed to post meeting minutes starting in July as new precedent for sharing what was discussed. Confidential matters will be covered as needed in an Executive Session and will not be included in the minutes.
 - There are “Frequently Asked Questions” in the area of Search and Call from the Congregation that need to be addressed, such as:
 - How has the COT incorporated the perspective of the congregation?
 - Should the congregation know when something is being voted on by COT?
 - Kirsten will address these and others in her monthly newsletter submissions.
 - Additionally, the S&C team will be communicating with the congregation after every one of their meetings.
 - There was discussion about Arlen’s contract. The specifics of Arlen’s contract are still being finalized.
- Council of Trustees meetings timing – Viki proposed August 1 instead of Monday July 29, August 19 instead of 15. She offered to send a Doodle to finalize.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:33pm

Respectfully submitted,

Viki Rehkugler

Information Officer