

# Garden City Community Church Council of Trustees Meeting

October 9, 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
Karin Melkonian	Personnel, Program Committee	In-person
Tim Martens	At Large - AV	In-person
	Finance & Administration	In-person
Robin Laisure	Committee	
Tara Noll-Socha	Program Committee, Education	Virtual

## *Nonvoting officers of the church present:*

Viki Rehkugler	Information Officer	In-person
Joe Stanco	Treasurer	In-person

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm

**Opening Prayer:** Kirsten opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Approval of Minutes:** Viki will distribute the minutes of the September 25, 2025 meeting for approval as soon as she completes them.

## **Agenda - Round Robin Updates:**

### **Tara/Education Report:**

Tara spoke about the Education Committee Report she had distributed to COT members prior to the meeting. The report listed following events that had been held or are scheduled:

- Sept 14th -- Movie Night ---outdoor movie held in playscape. 37 attended including church families and some Nursery School families. Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey was shown. Cat & Dog themed snacks and crafts were provided.
- Sept 15th – Welcome Day. First day of Sunday school.
- Oct 6th — World Communion Sunday—families participated in a procession of communion breads from around the world.

- Oct 18th — first High School & Middle School youth group meeting. To be held at Spooky Fest in Rockville Centre.
- Oct 20th — first Confirmation meeting
- Oct 27th --- Pumpkin Festival

Most important item - **Confirmation update**---zoom meeting with Doug, Amanda, Amy and (Tara) on 10/8. Decision that 4 families of 9th graders would be invited to join current class. They would need to attend a series of 1.5-2 hour make-up classes held after church to learn content of first year. Dates for new 9 th grade meetings: Oct 20 th (to meet everyone), Nov 3, Dec 15 th , Jan 12 th and Feb TBD. It was emphasized that this is a onetime offer where they can commit to this year of classes and extra make-up classes or they can join the next cohort in Oct 2025.

It was decided that confirmation students would be asked to attend church on meeting days.

Amanda will be sending an invite by email and will follow with a phone call soon after.

### **Joe/Treasurer Report:**

Report was not printed and left in folder so Joe verbally reported the following highlights:

- Almost \$70k in expenditures on the facility.
- Drawn down over \$200k more from investments than anticipated due to delay in receipt of ERC money.

### **Pledging Update:**

- 18 units have paid 100% of their pledge.
- 54 units have given some money.
- 5 units have paid zero.

### **Stewardship Campaign:**

Joe shared documents and activities Stewardship Committee is preparing:

- “I Imagine” - Jill Emmer’s creation for congregants to complete.
- 10/20/2024: Jill Emmer to address the congregation about the goal of the campaign.
- Paula Tusiani-eng to create a video of Church Members sharing the message of the campaign.

Joe gave a verbal description of the current financial income pie chart:

- 55% Investments
  - A 10% increase from 2023 in funding from Investments
- 18% Pledging
- 6% Congregational Giving
- 9% Church Usage
- 12% Affiliates (Nursery School & Fair)

Viki noted that we intended to share the revenue breakdown in a newsletter or e-blast to the congregation. She also requested that the unplanned expenditures on the facility be shared with the congregation in the next newsletter. Joe to ask Hugh Lacy to write a blurb on the facility expenditures.

Robin commented on the October 2nd F&A Strategic Planning Associates Presentation.

- Meeting went very well and several people outside of F&A attended.
- Two representatives from Northwestern presented update.
- General update on Market
- \$4 million in endowment; up from \$2 million when they were brought on board.

#### **Personnel - Rev. Arlen Contract:**

Rev. Arlen, COT, and outside counsel, all agree that the following description is not disparaging and would be appropriate, should anyone, including references or applicants for the senior pastor position, inquire: Rev. Arlen was not a good fit for our church, that COT was looking for new leadership, and that he did all that he could do for our Church.

**John Livingston's Contract/Agreement - Karin/Personnel** provided an update in Executive Session.

#### **Tim/MAL:**

- **Flagpoles for American and Church Flag are being shipped - will have them in place in time for Veteran's Day.**
- Livestream Upgrades - will restart process with Steve Short and return to COT with full scope of work and functionality.

#### **Kirsten/COT Chair:**

##### **COT Open & Filled Positions:**

- Chair for Personnel - Karin Melkonian
  - Personnel Committee: Sue Bashian & Jeanne Ellis
- Chair for Membership - Open
- Chair for Community Service - Open
- Chair for General Programming - Open
- Open Council of Trustees Positions
- Volunteers needed for Committee Positions - Education, Membership, etc.

Call for Volunteers will be sent. Volunteers can be transitioned to COT if they're interested.

#### **Cindy/Ministry:**

- Meeting held September 27, 2024 - Meeting minutes to be distributed.

#### **Meeting schedule going forward**

- Once a month on 1st Wednesday of the month.

- If additional meetings needed - ZOOM is an Option.
- Next meeting November 6th will be a ZOOM meeting so no conflict with Fair preparation

**Church Bylaws:**

- COT Members to review current Bylaws and note their suggestions for revisions and additions.
- Review can include looking at other Church's bylaws - ask John Livingston for help.

**Meeting Adjourned 8:53PM**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Tim Martens**