

STATED SESSION MEETING MINUTES
September 5, 2017 7:00 PM in the Thornhill Room

Elders Present:, Frank Dauby, Kristin Dwelley, Gretchen Garlinghouse, Rick Heller, Mary Ellen McKey, Dave Miller, Paula Moseley, Brenda Steinmetz-Vallenas, Jan Stites, Blake Thompson

Elders Excused: Shelley Kelly, Rayno Niemi

Staff Present: Rev. Talitha Aho, Rev. Ben Daniel

Others Present: Sari Kulberg

Rev. Talitha Aho called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and offered an opening prayer.

Clerk's Report: The next regular session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 3 at 7:00 p.m. Presbytery meets again on Sat., Sept. 9 at First Pres. Newark and will feature presentations and workshops from the Crossroads Anti-Racism Organizing & Training organization. Our second Safe Church training is slated for Saturday, Sept. 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Susanne Lea distributed a sign-up list for liaison reports.

- **MSP** the minutes of the July 18, 2017 stated session meeting
- **MSP** the minutes of the congregational meeting of July 23, 2017

Water Law Endorsement: Sari Kulberg of the Earthcare Committee asked for session's endorsement of the federal Water Act to fund the repair and updating of our aging public water infrastructure, including replacing lead pipes in schools. This was the first reading of the legislation. Congresswoman Barbara Lee has not yet signed on. Jan Stites will contact her office to inquire of her position. Sari will return in October for a final read of the legislation.

Budget Follow-up: Susanne pointed out a minor discrepancy between the budget session adopted at its July 18 meeting and the budget ratified by the congregation at the July 23 congregational meeting. Finance chair Al Peters has indicated that the budget ratified by the congregation is the most up-to-date budget.

- **MSP** to approve the budget ratified by the congregation on July 23 (attached) as the final 2017-2018 budget.

Ben noted that session has yet to allocate the \$5,000 budget item designated for PCUSA. In the past we have designated part of this item for Bolivia mission co-workers. However, we as a congregation are no longer involved in Bolivia. Ben will come back next month with several options for this allocation.

Jan reported that the special appeal letter has been drafted and will be presented to session next month.

Susanne explained that currently no one is planning or coordinating fundraising activities. We need someone to take on this role, come up with a five-year strategy and work as a co-chair with the Stewardship Chair. Paul Moseley has a friend with fundraising expertise who might take on this job. At some point Nominating Committee might need to become involved.

Shelley Kelly and Talitha are researching wedding rental possibilities. The biggest problem is parking. A package offering a pastor, musician, sound technician and custodial staff can range from \$900 to \$2000. The thought is to start around \$1500 and then gradually increase the rate. We would need a page on our website for weddings and other offerings, e.g., renewing vows, blessing a marriage. Advertising and listing on wedding sites would be in order. Our policy is that only members and friends can use our facility for a reception, and only members and friends can serve alcoholic beverages at such events..

- **Consensus** to move forward on wedding rentals

Susanne volunteered to contact the Presbyterian Foundation to set up a legacy program.

- **MSP** to move forward on legacy planning.

Bridge and Landscaping; Dave Miller shared the attached bridge demo update from Leonard Nielsen. Session members expressed a sense of urgency in moving forward with the bridge removal and beautifying the area. Gretchen Garlinghouse, Talitha, Linda Spencer and Larry Cooke have met as an ad hoc group to begin addressing the front entrance to the sanctuary. They have identified issues and needs as well as wish list items related to beautifying the front entrance and ensuring its safety. (See attached report.) Availability of funds, of course, is always an issue.

Physical Safety Task Force: Gretchen proposed that session establish a task force to identify and design emergency protocols to ensure physical safety while on the church campus.

Letter to Celebration Committee: Session members discussed at length the attached letter from Art Paull setting forth his request – and rationale - for a church wide process of reflection and input regarding Celebration at MPC. Susanne will respond, noting that Session is planning a leadership retreat in the first half of 2018 which will engage the congregation on a church-wide basis in assessing various aspects of church life, including Celebration.

Kristin Dwelley closed with prayer at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susanne Lea, Clerk of Session