

STATED SESSION MEETING MINUTES
April 4, 2017 7:00 PM in the Thornhill Room

Elders Present: Frank Dauby, Kristin Dwelley, Gretchen Garlinghouse, Rick Heller, Mary Ellen McKey, Paula Moseley, Rayno Niemi, Jan Stites

Elders Excused: Shelley Kelly, Dave Miller, Brenda Steinmetz-Vallenas, Blake Thompson

Staff Present: Rev. Talitha Phillips

Others Present: Jim Allardice, Steve McKiernan, Janet Mulshine

Rev. Talitha Phillips called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Gretchen Garlinghouse offered the opening prayer.

Clerk's Report: The next regular session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 2 at 7:00 p.m. Presbytery meets again on Tuesday, May 9 at Trinity PC in San Carlos. There will be a regional presbytery meeting on Tuesday, May 23 from 4 to 8 p.m. at First Pres., Oakland. We will have a leadership retreat – open to all - on Saturday, April 22 from 10 to 1:30 at Lafayette-Orinda PC. An MPC family meeting regarding decisions related to the bridge will take place on Sunday, April 30 following Celebration. Finally, we will have a follow-up church-wide conversation regarding the hiatus in invitations during Lent on Sunday, May 21 at 11:30 a.m.

Susanne Lea distributed the new session member assignments, went over the protocol for bringing items to session, and distributed the prayer list. She reported for the minutes that the new elders were ordained and installed on March 19. Training for the new class took place on March 21. By email vote 3/11/2017, session authorized (1) Brenda Vallenas-Steinmetz as signatory on our Wells Fargo account, as well as (2) the attached response to Art Paul concerning the invitations hiatus.

- **MSP** the minutes of the March 7, 2016 stated session meeting.
- **MSP** the following slate to serve as Presbytery Commissioners: Jean Gregory, Susanne Lea and Bill Neely, with Kristin Dwelley, Anna Santos and David Siegenthaler as alternates.
- **MSP** to serve as officers of the David Russell Memorial Endowment Trust Fund: Shelly Kelley, President; Mary Ellen McKey, Secretary; Al Peters, Chief Financial Officer.
- **MSP** Susanne Lea to serve as Clerk of Session.
- **MSP** to serve as officers of the corporation: Shelly Kelley, President; Susanne Lea, Secretary; Al Peters, Treasurer.
- **MSP** to elect Mary Ellen McKey to serve as chair of the church Nominating Committee.

Fundraising Update: Gretchen Garlinghouse announced that because we met our fundraising goal through the auction/talent show, the May garage sale is cancelled. Session may want to revisit holding a garage sale in the Fall.

Social Media Guidelines: Steve McKiernan presented the attached Social Media Guidelines.

- **MSP** to affirm the Guidelines.
- **MSP** to appoint Rick Heller to pursue follow-up conversation to articulate what is “overtly partisan” for purposes of social media communications.

Green Purchasing Policy: Janet Mulshine reported that as part of MPC’s application to become certified as a Bay Area Green Business, a consultant recently did a “walk through” of our campus. The consultant pointed out several things we need to do in order to qualify for certification. Once our application is submitted, an audit team will come through and verify everything we have stated in the application. Part of the application process involves adopting an Environmentally Preferable (Green) Purchasing Policy (see attached).

- **MPS** to approve the Environmentally Preferable (Green) Purchasing Policy in pursuit of certification as a Bay Area Green Business.

More Light Committee: Jim Allardice updated session on the More Light Committee. The committee met in the Fall in an effort to develop more traction within the church. Twelve folks attended; much enthusiasm was generated resulting in participation in the Oakland Pride Parade, in conjunction with the East Bay Gay Men’s Chorus (EBGMC); a formalized relationship with EBGMC whereby the chorus rehearses in our Sanctuary in exchange for performing from time to time during Sunday Celebrations; participation by members of the EBGMC in our talent show; and development (in progress) of a brochure. The committee intends to use \$2,000 of restricted gift funds to hire a social media consultant to reach out to LGBTQ families in Oakland. The idea is to develop and place targeted ads in three social media venues with the goal of getting people here for the August BBQ’s and Celebration. If this approach produces positive results, Membership and Outreach might want to take it on as part of its overall outreach strategy.

Kristin Dwelley pointed out that we need LGBTQ representation on the Nominating Committee and session.

Pest Report: Frank Dauby, a registered civil engineer, presented the pest report on the bridge and deck. Moving forward, we can remove the bridge and re-landscape the area, repair the bridge, or remove the bridge and replace it with a different bridge. All three scenarios entail eventually repairing the deck. In preparation for the April 30 congregational conversation on the bridge, we need to develop more pricing information for these options.

Stewardship and Budget Process: Susanne gave a brief overview of the stewardship and budget process.

Membership and Outreach Report: Gretchen Garlinghouse presented the attached Membership and Outreach report requesting session action on removal and transfer of members.

- **MSP** to remove Carolyn Vallergera and Marie Ann Schmidt from the MPC membership rolls, and to approve the transfer of Joan Halprin to First Congregational Church Berkeley.

Nominating Committee: Mary Ellen McKey delivered the attached Nominating Committee Annual Evaluation.

Faithful America Pledge: Rick Heller presented the attached Faithful America pledge. Session members commented that the pledge of non-cooperation with deporting/detaining immigrants should not be restricted to the “Trump administration” and recommended removing that term. Rick will take this suggestion back to the Peace and Justice Steering Committee.

Staff Reports: Talitha shared that she enjoyed working with Erin during Lent and is finding her Tuesday writing time quite fruitful.

Talitha adjourned with prayer at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Lea
Clerk of Session