

**STATED SESSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**June 6, 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, Rayno Niemi, Brenda Steinmetz-Vallenas, Jan Stites, Blake Thompson

**Elders Absent:** Shelley Kelly

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

**Others Present:** Jim Allardice, Judy Cox, Chad DeWitt, Al Peters, Pat Schwinn, Martha Smith, Stephen Warren

Rev. Ben Daniel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and Rayno Niemi offered the opening prayer.

**Clerk's Report:** The next regular session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 18 at 7:00 p.m. There will be no meeting in August. 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. We will broadly publicize this event. Commissioners Kristin Dwelley and Susanne Lea reported on the May Presbytery meetings.

- **MSP** the minutes of the May, 2 2017 stated session meeting as corrected.
- **MSP** the minutes of the congregational meeting of May 14, 2017.
- **MSP** to re-elect Chuck Dormann as Presbytery Commissioner.
- **MSP** to hold a congregational meeting on Sunday, July 23 to vote on the terms of call for Revs. Daniel and Aho and ratify the 2017-2018 budget.

**Conversation with Prospective New Members:** Session members met with prospective new members Stephen Warren, Martha Smith, Chad DeWitt and Judy Cox. They shared their spiritual journeys to MPC and interest in joining; session members introduced themselves and shared their backgrounds and roles.

- **MSP** to receive Stephen Warren, Martha Smith, Chad DeWitt and Judy Cox as new members of MPC.

**Finance Committee Report:** Finance Chair Al Peters presented a draft 2017-2018 with a beginning deficit of \$31,375 based on anticipated revenue. Session commissioned an ad hoc budget committee consisting of Al, Ben, Susanne Lea, Paula Moseley, Brenda Steinmetz-Vallenas and Rick Heller to review and revise the draft budget and return next month with a recommended final budget. As well, Ben will convene a budget orientation session at 11:30 on July 2 for those interested in learning more about how our budget works.

**Stewardship:** Stewardship chair Pat Schwinn presented the attached report. The stewardship campaign is officially "over." To date we have raised \$275K in pledges. No pledges have been increased. Session engaged in a spirited discussion of Ketih Geckeler's letter re stewardship (attached). Members

expressed interest in exploring an “asking” approach to the stewardship campaign and building more transparency into our budget and stewardship processes. Susanne will respond for session to Keith’s letter.

**Celebration Committee:** Jim Allardice, co-chair of Celebration, shared responses from the Invitations Questionnaire (attached). The committee will be tweaking the Invitations Policy.

**Bridge entrance barrier:** Susanne reported that attention has been drawn to the unsightly appearance of the barrier safety boards blocking the deck entrance to the sanctuary. Gretchen Garlinghouse will communicate with membership committee about installing an MPC banner across the barrier.

Ben adjourned with prayer at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Lea  
Clerk of Session