

**STATED SESSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**November 7, 2017 7:00 PM in the Thornhill Room**

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

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

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

**Others Present:** Jim Allardice, Al Peters

Rev. Ben Daniel called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Frank Dauby offered an opening prayer.

**Clerk's Report:** The next regular session meeting is scheduled for December 5 at 6:30 p.m. This will be a dinner meeting, with the primary agenda item being discussion of the Peace Church proposal. Presbytery meets again on Tuesday, February 13, location tbd. Clerk of Session Susanne Lea circulated a signup sheet for annual evaluations.

- **MSP** the minutes of the October 3, 2017 stated session meeting.
- **MSP** to set a congregational meeting for November 26, 2017 to elect new members to the Nominating Committee.

**Celebration Committee:** Celebration chair Jim Allardice presented the attached statistical report on invitations. Generally, invitations are now under a minute, and concerns folks have expressed with the Invitations Policy have been addressed. Presenters have been introducing themselves, another plus. Well done, Celebration Committee!

**Special Appeal; Fundraising plan:** Rick Heller noted that the roll-out of the special appeal went well. Jan Stites and Blake Thompson will make a second pitch on Sunday, November 12. Good news: Diane Bessette has offered to help put together a fundraising plan.

**Finance Committee:** Session received the attached quarterly financial statements. Finance Chair Al Peters affirmed that the structural deficit is \$42,000. He has restructured the budget. There is \$8,000 remaining in capital campaign funds, with pledges still coming in. Session members requested an accounting of the capital campaign. Al indicated he would do this through Contact.

**Response to Fire:** Gretchen Garlinghouse raised the question: what can MPC do to assist in the aftermath of the Sonoma/Napa County fires? Normally, we would donate to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, but no fund has been set up for the recent fires. Gretchen will draft a letter to

PDA inquiring about this situation. Susanne will contact Presbytery of the Redwoods to find out what they are doing and how we might help.

**Update on Bridge:** MPC is working with Landscape Architect Susan Miller on the permit process for removal of the bridge. Susan believes the permit category will come in at a lower level than originally anticipated. The bridge group is in the process of connecting with the Sausal Creek folks for advice on plants for the creek bed.

**Adult Education Evaluation:** Liaison Rick Heller presented the attached Adult Education evaluation. He noted that not many new folks attend the adult education classes - the same people tend to come time and again. There is an on-line ability to sign up for a class.

**Children and Youth Evaluation:** Liaison Rayno Niemi presented the attached Children and Youth Committee evaluation. Cindy Gullickson is drafting a policy to ensure a climate of safety for children and youth. Thanks to Vern Alexander's donation which started the renovation process, Room 4- the Blue Room - has been lovingly renovated with participation from many people.

**Personnel Report:** Susanne reported for the Personnel Committee that Kim Rankin is scheduled for knee surgery at the end of December and will be unable to drive six weeks thereafter. Provisions are being made to cover Kim's absence. The Personnel Committee is looking into our policies on medical/sick leave and related accommodation issues. Gil's wage claim is set for mid-December. Any award would likely be in the range of \$0 to \$10,000. We have set aside \$9,000.

**Peace Church Overture:** Ben presented the attached Overture to the General Assembly on Support of Peace Churches in the PC(USA). San Jose Presbytery passed the overture celebrating the efforts of churches working to become peace churches. In order to be considered by General Assembly, two presbyteries must make the overture.

- **MSP** to concur in supporting this overture.

**Leadership Retreat:** By consensus session agreed that the leadership retreat will be an overnight plus full day experience. Various locations were discussed. Participants will cover their own costs. The pastors' discretionary fund will be available for scholarships. Process: Prior to the retreat, we will have a congregation-wide event and conversation to gather input on where we want to go as a church community and what we want to see happen that is not happening now. This input will serve as the foundation for the retreat.

**DACA Response:** Ben has reached out to Primera Inglesia Presbiteriana to find out what our sister church is doing about the DACA situation and how we might participate; he has not yet received a response. Food for thought: Do we prepare to become a sanctuary church if Congress doesn't act to extend DACA?

**Staff Reports:** The Harvest Dinner was a true success, with deep interfaith connections. Eighteen youth participated in the youth retreat. Rev. Talitha Aho will be attending a first-call pastor retreat.

Ben closed with prayer at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Lea, Clerk of Session