

STATED SESSION MEETING MINUTES
Jan. 31, 2017 7:00 PM in the Thornhill Room

Elders Present: Gretchen Garlinghouse, Shelley Kelly, Betsy King, Mary Ellen McKey, Dave Miller, Paula Moseley, Rayno Niemi, Anna Santos, Blake Thompson

Elders Excused: Amy Bess, Sue Davies, Brenda Steinmetz-Vallenas

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

Others Present: Janet Mulshine, Leonard Nielson

Rev. Ben Daniel called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Shelley Kelly offered the opening prayer.

Clerk's Report: The next regular session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 7 at 6 p.m. in the Family Room. This will be a potluck followed by a "light" session meeting; newly elected session members will be invited to attend as guests. We have a congregational meeting scheduled for February 26. Presbytery meets again on Tuesday, February 7 at Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church. The annual statistical report is due February 24, 2017. Committee Liaisons signed up to present their annual evaluations.

- **MSP** the minutes of the Jan. 3, 2017 stated session meeting, with minor corrections.
- **MSP** annual statistical report, pending a revised total for baptized members.
- **MSP** to expand the scope of the February 26 congregational meeting to include a report to the congregation on the status of the bridge, with a recommendation that rather than proceeding to repair the bridge, we proceed to remove it, thereby daylighting the creek.

PCUSA Earthcare Congregation Recertification: Janet Mulshine reported that the SPLASH Committee is working on the recertification application. Janet is moving forward on the green business certification for Alameda County.

Finance Committee Report: The 12/31/2016 financial statements were received. Al Peters noted that we are not quite where we want to be in terms of income. His best guess is that we have a pledging revenue shortfall of approximately \$10,000. We do not have solid information because of the initial problems with online pledging. Expenses are tracking "pretty well;" we are within about \$6,000 on budgeted expenses.

Capital Projects Update: Leonard Nielson presented the attached (1) spreadsheet showing draft scope of remaining capital projects; (2) capital campaign budget summary; and (3) descriptive letter regarding status of the bridge. Going forward, some identified items that were not part of the original capital campaign will be self funded through the Buildings and Grounds (B & G) budget, e.g., roof leaks in the breezeway and sanctuary roof repairs. The Finance Committee is considering increasing the annual B & G budget to accommodate ongoing significant repair and maintenance work.

Bridge update: At this juncture the extent of rot within the bridge structure is such that the physical structure will have to be replaced – the initially anticipated repair job will not suffice. According to Leonard, if a building inspector looked at the bridge today, he/she

would redtag it as unsafe. Aside from the issue of cost of replacement, it is questionable that we would receive the approvals necessary to accomplish the replacement. (See letter.) Therefore, session moved to recommend removal and daylighting of the creek, as highlighted in the above Clerk's Report motion. Session will send a blast email to the church community setting forth the status of the bridge and session's recommendation.

- **MSP** to move items totaling \$7,940 related to painting the two manses from the "new items" right hand column of the spreadsheet to the left hand column delineating capital projects that must be accomplished now with capital funds.
- **MSP** to defer certain items (totaling \$16,380) to a later time when they will be self-funded through the B & G budget, namely sewer replacement; raising the concrete foundation on the front office; repairing the front sidewalk; and repairing the stairs at the rear Education Building.

Gas Leak: Gas is now on and we are connected but some work remains to be done. The final cost for the gas leak repair will be between \$7500 and \$8000.

Beacons Report: In Sue Davies' absence, Susanne shared the attached Beacons report with session. Beacons have taken over the greeter function, a job that meshes well with their purpose and duties. Recruiting new Beacons remains an ongoing challenge.

HAWG Annual Evaluation: Susanne presented the attached HAWG annual evaluation. HAWG recently transition from co-chairs to one chair (Deborah Brooks) without incident. We intend to invite young persons to join the committee and hope to expand advocacy efforts.

Nominations Committee: The Nominations Committee is meeting February 8 to come up with a slate of new session nominees.

Manse Agreement: Blake Thompson presented the attached manse agreement. Susanne will check out what other churches do in terms of paying utilities.

- **MSP** the manse agreement.

Staff Reports: Rev. Talitha Aho reported that the Children and Youth Committee is developing a four-year strategic plan. The Youth Group will travel to Hollywood for the summer mission trip. Talitha will begin reserving Tuesday afternoons for writing time. Ben observed that the challenge for all of us is to keep up the resistance while also lifting up grace, beauty and joy in our lives.

Ben adjourned the meeting with prayer at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Lea
Clerk of Session