

STATED SESSION MEETING MINUTES
March 1, 2016 7:45 PM in the Family Room

Elders Present: Amy Bess, Francie Chan, Cynthia Cudaback, Margaretha Derasary, Gretchen Garlinghouse, Shelley Kelly, Mary Ellen McKey, Rayno Niemi, Anna Santos

Elders Excused: Sue Davies, Betsy King, Sharon Notebook, David Siegenthaler

Staff Present: Rev. Ben Daniel, Talitha Phillips

Guests: Elders elect David Miller, Paula Moseley, Blake Thompson, Brenda Steinmetz-Vallenez

Rev. Ben Daniel called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. Margaretha Derasary offered the opening prayer.

Clerk's Report: The next regular session meeting is Tuesday, April 5, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Presbytery will host a regional meeting at MPC on March 8. The ordination and installation service for our newly elected elders will take place on March 13. Training for the new class is scheduled for March 22.

- **MSP** the minutes of the February 2, 2016 stated session meeting, with minor correction.
- **MSP** the minutes of the February 21, 2016 congregational meeting.
- **MSP** to appoint Mary Ellen McKey as pro tem clerk of session.

Stewardship: Stewardship Chair Carrie McKiernan presented the attached draft annual stewardship letter, and received several comments and suggestions. Session approved the letter by consensus. It will be sent out under the designation of session during the second week of April. Carrie asked for feedback on the effectiveness of the stewardship brochure – session members think it is a positive feature of the stewardship campaign. As well session members expressed the need for clear, regular messaging on where MPC is financially and where the funds are going, perhaps with pie charts or other visuals.

Adult Education: Margaretha Derasary shared the attached annual review of the Adult Education Committee.

Personnel Committee: Personnel Chair Francie Chan presented the attached report.

- **MSP** to hire Noel Moritz as administrative assistant beginning March 7 (half time for two weeks and then full time) at \$23.00/hour for a 40-hour week.

Ben Daniel's terms of call; moving expenses: Susanne Lea reported that Ben's housing allowance of \$2,850/month should be eliminated once he and his

family moves to the manse. As well, Session needs to value the manse for purposes of calculating his Board of Pensions contribution.

- **MSP** to reduce Ben's salary by \$2,850.
- **MSP** to value the manse at \$2,850.
- **MSP** to hold a congregational meeting on March 20 to change Ben's terms of call.
- **MSP** to cap Ben's moving expenses at \$2,200, to be taken out of the cleaning deposit on his current residence.

Staff Reports: Rev. Tallitha Phillips shared that Godly Play is doing well under Delores Siegenthaler's leadership. Talitha loved the Wednesday night Bible study program. Ben indicated that his sister Gwynneth recently signed a record contract and would like to do a concert at MPC, donating some of the proceeds to the church.

- **MSP** to invite Gwynneth to do an event at MPC in June, the proceeds to be split equitably between Gwynneth and the church.

Ben also reported that he will only be preaching twice during the six week Lenten period. Talitha is preaching twice, and two guest speakers have been scheduled during this time.

- **MSP** as a general practice, MPC will limit outside guest speakers for Celebration services to one speaker per quarter. This is not a hard and fast rule, and does not apply when MPC's regular pastors are on vacation.

Appreciation for outgoing session members: We said good-bye and gave much thanks to members of the outgoing session class: Francie Chan, Cynthia Cudaback, Margaretha Derasary, Sharon Notebook and David Siegenthaler.

Ben adjourned the meeting with prayer at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Lea
Clerk of Session