

STATED SESSION MEETING MINUTES
May 3, 2016 7:00 PM in the Thornhill Room

Elders Present: Amy Bess, Sue Davies, Mary Ellen McKey, Dave Miller, Paula Moseley, Rayno Niemi, Anna Santos, Blake Thompson, Brenda Steinmetz-Vallenas

Elders excused: Gretchen Garlinghouse, Shelley Kelly, Betsy King

Staff Present: Rev. Ben Daniel, Talitha Phillips

Guest: Jean Norris

Rev. Ben Daniel called the meeting to order at 7:05. Sue Davies offered the opening prayer, one she heard at a Bat Mitzvah.

Clerk's Report: The next regular Session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 7, at 7:00 p.m. Presbytery meets again on May 10 at Clayton Valley Presbyterian Church. Safe church training will take place May 21, 10:00 to 2:00.

- **MSP** the minutes of the April 5, 2016 stated session meeting, with a few minor corrections.

Peace and Justice Committee: Jean Norris, representing the steering committee, presented a motion (attached) asking that MPC establish an earmarked budget line item for a PC(USA) mission gift of \$5,000 and consider increasing the amount each budget year to a goal of \$10,000.

Discussion followed about the programs of Chenoa Stock, with Joining Hands in Bolivia, and Eli Cook, with UBL in Costa Rica. Both were commissioned by PC(USA) to do the work they do. The other issue was where the decision on giving should be made: by Session giving direction to the Finance Committee, or vice versa.

- **MSP** to forward the following recommendation to the Finance Committee/budget adjustment group, with Session's support for the action requested: Peace and Justice Steering Committee asks that MPC establish an earmarked budget line item for a PC(USA) Mission Gift of \$5,000 dollars (approximately 1% of the total budget) and consider increasing each budget year the amount of the annual earmarked World Mission gift to a goal of \$10,000.

Personnel Committee: Session members went into executive session to discuss a recent personnel issue.

- **MSP** to authorize up to \$7,000 to settle a claim which the Personnel Committee has been working on.

Financials: Amy Bess presented the report on the church financial situation at the end of the third quarter of FY 2015-2016 (attached). Pledges have been greater than anticipated, and overall finances are going very well.

Amy also reported on the April 9 plant sale, which took in \$5,599.60. She had hoped for \$10,000, but several factors conspired against it. First, it rained most of Saturday; second, more people need to be involved; third, more plants need to be donated. Amy feels that if we can't get more involvement we should consider other kinds of fundraisers.

January Leadership Retreat: Talitha asked how those of us attending had used what we learned at the retreat. Mary Ellen said she felt she learned a lot and enjoyed the presentations but hasn't had occasion to use the suggestions. Amy reported using "Mutual Invitation" in Nominations Committee meetings.

Talitha has put together a list of possible new evaluation questions for committees, which were greeted positively by session members. She will continue working on them and bring back further suggestions to the June meeting. One of the questions involved "rotating leadership", which led to a discussion of how this might be facilitated, perhaps to similar positions in Presbytery.

Capital Projects: In Leonard's absence, Ben reported that the manse needs only a few finishing touches. Major jobs on the church campus, sewer upgrade and roof repair, have been completed.

Staff Reports: Ben reported that the church is trying to find a landscaper. We discussed the differences between an independent contractor and an employee of the church, pros and cons of each. We agreed that the church should entertain several applications, if possible, with each providing recommendations.

- **MSP** to roll Ben's leftover week of study leave into the first week of July, when he will have the opportunity to use it.

Talitha reported (attached) that she allowed herself to work too many hours in the weeks of April and is committed to pulling back.

Ben adjourned the meeting with prayer at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen McKey
Clerk of Session Pro-tem