

MONTCLAIR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STATED SESSION MEETING
April 4, 2023 MINUTES

Elders Present: Linda Benson, Margaretha Derasary, Mike Forbes, Gretchen Garlinghouse, Cindy Gullikson, Helen Hutchison, Sari Kulberg, Linda Spencer, Allen Spore, May Tong

Elders Absent: Leslie Louie, Jean Roggenkamp

Staff Present: Rev. Ben Daniel, Katie Kilby

Others Present: Suzanne Jones, Carrie McKiernan

Clerk's Report: Rev. Ben Daniel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and Helen Hutchison offered the opening reflection. This was a hybrid ZOOM meeting. The next Presbytery meeting takes place Tuesday, May 9, 2023; this will be a hybrid meeting. Session meets again on Tuesday, May 2. Clerk of Session Susanne Lea reported for the minutes that Linda Benson, Margaretha Derasary and Sari Kulberg were installed as ruling elders during Celebration on Sunday, March 26. Susanne welcomed the new session members and noted their liaison role.

- **MSP** to approve minutes of the March 1, 2023 session meeting.
- **MSP** to approve the minutes of the special session meeting of March 21, 2023.
- **MSP** to elect Rick Heller, Susanne Lea and Linda Spencer as Presbytery Commissioners.
- **MSP** to elect the following officers to the David Russell Memorial Endowment Trust: Jean Roggenkamp, President; Al Peters, Treasurer; Debra Stastny, Secretary.
- **MSP** to elect Susanne Lea as Clerk of Session,.
- **MSP** to elect the following officers of the corporation: Jean Roggenkamp, President; Al Peters, Treasurer; Susanne Lea, Secretary.:

EarthCare Committee: Suzanne Jones presented the revised Climate-Friendly Food policy (attached) and answered questions

- **MSP** to approve the policy subject to seeking input from the following committees: Adult Ed., Family Life; Celebration; Children & Youth; Tahoe Camp; Poets and Storytellers - and bringing the policy back to session in May for a final vote.

Church Front Update: Helen Hutchison reported that we have passed the final inspection!

Support for the Work of the Church: Gretchen Garlinghouse sounded the call for more volunteers to do the work of the church, from Celebration set-up, to hospitality, to B & G, the Nursery and more. How do we encourage more, and consistent, volunteer support? Some ideas: Enlist Beacons, session members step up, use Pop Up lists to snag volunteers; personal invitations; use Realm to manage volunteers. Gretchen also noted the need to revisit the protocols for using church facilities and calendaring events.

Hiring Committee: Personnel Chair Carrie McKiernan reported that the Hiring Committee has made a selection and the candidate, Katie Kilby, has accepted the position of Director of Family and Community Life! She will start on or about the third week of May. In the meantime:

- **MSP** to renew Katie's interim contract as Director of Family and Community Life at \$26/hr. for 12-15 hours a week, until she assumes the permanent position in May.

Food Pantry Servers: Linda Spencer will pursue extending additional thanks for Fruitvale Food Pantry servers, now that MPC's role in operating the pantry has come to an end.

Stewardship Drive: Helen reported that stewardship letters will be sent the week after Easter. We are close to \$100,000 behind where we should be on current pledges. Stewardship chair Cynthia Blumgartr will contact folks about their pledges.

Renew MPC: Linda Spencer presented an informative slideshow about important data trends. Thank you Linda!

Sale of Crypt: Over fifty years ago someone gifted MPC a crypt at Mountain View Cemetery. A broker has proposed listing the crypt and paying MPC \$5,000 when it sells. Allen Spore proposes that session authorize sale of the crypt at no less than \$5,000, and that we pursue additional options

- **MSP** to sell the crypt at no less than \$5,000.

Loomis Basin UCC: Ben informed session that Loomis Basin UCC in exurban Sacramento is under attack from Project Veritas and the Proud Boys. Project Veritas released a fabricated video targeting the church and its pastor. As a consequence, the church has temporarily suspended in-person events on church property until there is a plan to maintain the safety and security of its people. Ben will write a letter of support to the church and possibly to the local newspaper.

Ben closed with prayer at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Lea, Clerk of Session