

**MONTCLAIR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**DRAFT STATED SESSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 5, 2023**

**Elders Present:** Linda Benson, Mike Forbes, Gretchen Garlinghouse, Cindy Gullikson, Helen Hutchison, Sari Kulberg, Leslie Louie, Jean Roggenkamp, Linda Spencer, Allen Spore.

**Elders Absent:** Margaretha Derasary, May Tong

**Staff Present:** Katie Kilby

**Others Present:** Rev. Keith Geckeler; Steve McKiernan.

**Clerk's Report:** Rev. Keith Geckeler called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and Linda Spencer offered the opening prayer. This was a hybrid ZOOM meeting. The next regular Presbytery meeting takes place on November 14, 2023 on Zoom. Session meets again on October 3, 2023.

- **MSP** to approve minutes of the July 18, 2023 stated session meeting.

**Gay Men's Chorus Agreement:** Steve McKiernan presented the Gay Men's Chorus agreement for Session's consideration (attached) and entertained questions.

- **MSP** to approve the agreement.

**Renew MPC:** Cindy Gullikson presented the attached slide show on Renew MPC. She indicated that the team is coming to Session for guidance and input - what have session members observed, and what next steps do they envision. Folks shared the following observations: nice illustrations in bulletin; Prayers for the People has been periodically reinstated; the greeting and contact spiel has been broken into two segments; there is thematic consistency between the music and text; music is more sing-able; Ben mentioned Renew MPC from the pulpit.

How do we get the word out: Session liaisons should talk about Renew MPC with their respective committees. A quarterly report to the congregation would be helpful.

We are not seeing an uptick in children. When young families come, they often do not stay. Who is going to carry forward the spirit of innovation?

Suggestion for an "Open Table" during Coffee Hour - a chance to reflect on what happened during Celebration today - did it work? Use butcher paper/post-its.

Someone also suggested making an effort to visit other churches. Kayie suggested visiting Oak Life, a nondenominational congregation of younger, former evangelical people, mostly under 45. Other suggestions: Plymouth United (Jazz); Sojourner Truth.

**Kick-off Sunday:** Katie and Susanne laid out the plans for Kickoff Sunday.

**Manse Update:** Susanne reported that we have signed a one year lease starting this Friday. The tenant is Deborah Harvey, grandma to Baby Jane and mother to Meredith, both of whom have been visiting Celebration. Tenant has a dog for which she paid an extra deposit.

**Presbytery Liaison:** Susanne further reported that Clementina Chacon is under Session's care and is in need of a Presbytery liaison as she goes through the ordination process. Maggie

Harmon was her liaison but has moved to another church. Linda Spencer volunteered. Susanne will follow up with Clementina.

**Church Re-entry Task Force:** Helen Hutchison and Gretchen Garlinghouse related that the Church Re-entry Task Force is ready to be absorbed into our Buildings and Grounds Committee.

- **MSP** to disband the Church Re-entry Task Force, with much appreciation for its work!

**AV Proposal:** Susanne presented Mimi Daniel's proposal for the position of On Call Audio Visual Technician (attached). Following discussion:

- **MSP** to hire Mimi Daniel per the proposal for up to 15 hours a week at the rate of \$25/hour through November 3, 2023, written reports to be submitted each week and written deliverables to be sent to the Session at the end of the contract.

Keith Geckeler closed with prayer at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susanne Lea  
Clerk of Session