

MONTCLAIR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DRAFT STATED SESSION MEETING MINUTES
November 7, 2023

Elders Present: Linda Benson, Margaretha Derasary, Gretchen Garlinghouse, Cindy Gullikson, Helen Hutchison, Sari Kulberg, Leslie Louie, Jean Roggenkamp, Linda Spencer, Allen Spore, May Tong.

Elders Absent: Mike Forbes

Staff Present: Rev. Ben Daniel, Katie Kilby

Others Present: Mimi Daniel, Suzanne Jones, Steve McKiernan

Clerk's Report: Rev. Ben Daniel called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and May Tong offered the opening prayer. This was a hybrid ZOOM meeting. The next regular Presbytery meeting takes place online on November 14, 2023. Session meets again on Dec. 5, 2023. There will be a congregational meeting on Nov. 19, 2023 for the purposes of electing a Nominating Committee member to replace Anita Kreplin, and receiving the full financial reviews for FY's 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. Clerk of Session Susanne Lea reminded session members to sign up to give the annual evaluation of their respective liaison committees.

- **MSP** to approve minutes of the Oct. 3, 2023 stated session meeting,

Personnel Committee: Liaison Leslie Louie reported that we have hired Rashno Razmkhah as Nursery Coordinator. She is a senior at Cal who has worked part time in day care; references are good.

Fundraising Committee: Leslie, Suzanne Jones and Claire Kelly are co-chairs of the Fundraising Committee. The auction is slated for Saturday, March 23, with estimated total revenues of \$24,000, net earnings to MPC \$19,440 and a proposed 10% title to Focus for Democracy.

MSP that 10% of auction proceeds will go to Focus on Democracy.

Solar and Electrification Projects: Suzanne Jones indicated that within the next year RE-volv will install solar panels on Ben's manse and the office. The company has not made a final determination about the rental unit. She further indicated that the goal of the electrification project is to be net 0 by 2030. The main electrical panels on the office and rental house need to be replaced, at a cost of \$4,000 each. This is a high priority safety issue. Phase 1 of the electrification program entails upgrading the electrical panel on the rental house and wiring for a heat pump and convection stove (\$8,400). Phase 2 entails replacing the gas furnace with a heat pump and wiring the office for an electric water heater.

MSP to refer the issue of the two electric panels (\$8,000) to B&G and Finance to determine how to proceed.

Membership & Outreach (M & O): M & O chair Steve McKiernan shared that the committee conducted a survey in August and engaged in follow-up conversations. Those looking for changes in Celebration noted a desire for more musical variety; more interaction/ways to

connect; variety in the structure; and more appeal to the heart. In terms of mind-set about church, folks are looking for community, spiritual growth, music and support from the pastor. A desire to get away from traditional language was also expressed. Overall, there is a sense of momentum behind the desire for change. It was suggested that Contact include a link to the survey results, and that results could be displayed during Family Hour. Steve challenged session members to invite five friends who do not attend church to fill out the questionnaire.

AV Technician Report: Mimi Daniel delivered her closing report (attached). This includes a continuing agenda item for four new speakers, costing in the neighborhood of \$1,700.

Finance Committee: Finance Committee liaison Allen Spore went over the highlights from the quarterly financials (attached). We have taken in 23% less than budgeted on contributions. \$90,000 remains outstanding in unpaid B & G expenses, which, when paid, will zero out the fund.

Winter Clothing Drive: The winter clothing drive is going well! Going forward, Allen would like to formalize our relationship with Vince Pannizzo and Mission for the Homeless.

Bonus: Linda Benson proposed a \$2,000 bonus for Noel Moritz in gratitude and recognition for all she did in readying the rental unit for occupancy. Susanne indicated that the Finance Committee is okay with allocating the bonus from the general fund.

- **MSP** to award Noel a \$2,000 bonus for her work in readying the rental unit for occupancy.

In the future, attention should be given to adjustments to job description and salary in light of all the facilities work Noel does.

Resolution re Port Chicago 50: Linda Spencer introduced the attached Resolution to Support Local, State and Federal Efforts to Exonerate the Port Chicago 50, and answered questions. We will revisit the resolution in December.

The Work of the People: Susanne presented the attached Guidelines for Work of the People presentations during Celebration.

By consensus session approved the Guidelines. Cindy Gullikson will forward them to the Celebration Committee.

Application to Become Inquirer: Katie Kilby informed session that she is submitting her application to become an inquirer with the San Francisco Presbytery. The action item for session is to vote on whether to endorse her as an inquirer, and, if so, to appoint a ruling elder to serve as her advocate through the process.

- **MSP** to endorse Katie as an inquirer with MPC, and appoint Helen Hutchison as her advocate through the process.

Sabbatical reflection: Ben shared some reflections of his sabbatical with session.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Lea
Clerk of Session