

MONTCLAIR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Session Minutes

April 2, 2024

Elders Present: Linda Benson, Margaretha Derasary, Rob Elia, Gretchen Garlinghouse, Karen Ray Gibson, Sari Kulberg, Leslie Louie, Linda Spencer, Jerry White

Elders Abent: Rick Heller, Jean Roggenkamp, May Tong

Outgoing Elders: Helen Hutchison, Cindy Gullckson, Allen Spore

Staff Present: Rev. Ben Daniel, Katie Kilby, Noel Moritz

Others Present: Suzanne Jones

Clerks Report: Rev. Ben Daniel called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. This was a hybrid ZOOM meeting. Leslie Louie offered the opening prayer. We welcomed new session members and distributed committee and prayer reflection assignments. New session members have been installed and ordained. Humongous thanks were extended to outgoing session members.

The next regular session meeting is Tuesday, May 7, 2024. The next Presbytery meeting takes place in person on May 21 at LOPC.

- **MSP** to approve minutes of March 5, 2024 stated Session meeting.
- **MSP** to approve minutes of Feb. 25, 2024 congregational meeting.
- **MSP** to elect Sari Kulberg chair of Nominating Committee.
- **MSP** to elect Rick Heller, Susanne Lea, Bill Neely and Linda Spencer as Presbytery commissioners.
- **MSP** to elect the following persons as officers of the David Russell endowment trust fund: Jean Roggenkamp, President; Al Peters, Treasurer; Debra Stastny, Secretary.
- **MSP** to elect the following persons as officers of the corporation: Jean Roggenkamp, President; Al Peters, Treasurer; Susanne Lea, Secretary.
- **MSP** to elect Susanne Lea as Clerk of Session.

Grant Proposal: Allen Spore and Susanne presented the attached missional partnership grant proposal to the Central Region of the SF Presbytery. The proposal seeks \$50,000 to support Mission for the Homeless (MFTH), an Oakland-based nonprofit organization, and builds on the existing relationship between MPC and MFTH. Following discussion:

- **MSP** to approve the grant proposal.

Fundraising Committee: Suzanne Jones and Leslie Louie reported that to date the recent auction brought in net revenues of \$36,708.31, with a 10% tithe of \$3,670.83 to the Focus for Democracy Project. However, an anonymous donor provided \$3,700 to cover the tithe, allowing MPC to retain the full \$36,708.31. Session previously approved an allocation of \$1,000 in FY23/24 and FY24/25 to fund Earth Care's democracy/climate action efforts. Additionally, previous discussion with the Earth Care Committee and session centered on Earth Care's request to use a reasonable portion of fundraising proceeds to phase out natural gas and electrify the MPC campus. Against this background, the Fundraising Committee's proposed that the auction proceeds be allocated as follows: (1) \$20,000 to MPC for whatever session deems

most urgent; (2) \$8,300 to upgrade the rental unit and office electrical panels; and (3) \$8,408.31 plus any additional auction funds that filter in towards beginning the electrification process.

- **MSP** to approve the above allocation of the 2024 auction funds.

B&G update: Facilities Manager Noel Moritz indicated there are two options for resolving the dry rot problem on the Grisborne side of the Ed. Building: (1) restore the area to its original structure; or (2) remove the cement and move the wall to where it should be, while also replacing the wall. We have already spent \$21,000 on drainage work. Smiles Day Care must be brought into the conversation about how to proceed.

- **MSP** to hire architect Chad DeWitt (capped at \$1,000) as a consultant to meet with Ben, Noel, B & G, Smiles and Esteban for the purpose of exploring these options.

Innovation Committee: Linda Spencer related that the Renew Team will help launch the new Innovation Committee. Karen Ray Gibson will be the session liaison. Ben and Katie Kilby will discuss who will staff the committee.

Stewardship Drive: Susanne asked for input on the theme and approach to the upcoming annual Stewardship drive. Suggestions included: the challenges of our aging physical plant; building on the emerging momentum from Renew and other efforts; the astonishing dedication of the congregation. Leslie Louie, Sari Kulberg and Linda Spencer offered to make follow up calls.

Annual Evaluations

- **Family Life:** Gretchen Garlinghouse delivered the attached Family Life Committee evaluation. She emphasized the strong desire within the congregation for community building, social interaction, and the need for activities that include new people. Small, low risk opportunities easily offer ways to connect.
- **Buildings and Grounds:** Susanne presented the B & G annual evaluation. The challenges of taking care of an aging campus and maintaining attractive grounds can be overwhelming, but we have increased membership on the committee and our pool of volunteers.

This and That from Ben: The Dubuque University Choir will be performing at MPC on Sunday, May 5. We will need to gather folks to host the students. Linda Spencer and Karen Ray Gibson volunteered. Ben mentioned that Faith Trio is struggling; new participation is needed. Jerry White volunteered.

Ben closed with prayer at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Lea, Clerk of Session