

MONTCLAIR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Session Minutes

March 5, 2024

Elders Present: Mike Forbes, Gretchen Garlinghouse, Cindy Gullikson, Helen Hutchison, Sari Kulberg, Jean Roggenkamp, Linda Spencer, Allen Spore, May Tong.

Elders-Elect Present: Karen Ray Gibson, Jerry White.

Elders Absent: Linda Benson; Margaretha Derasary; Leslie Louie.

Staff Present: Rev. Ben Daniel, Katie Kilby.

Clerks Report: Rev. Ben Daniel called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Helen Hutchison offered the opening prayer. This was a hybrid ZOOM meeting.

The next regular session meeting is Tuesday, April 2, 2024. The next Presbytery meeting takes place online on Tuesday, May 21, 2024. CPM will conduct a ZOOM training for session members on Tuesday, March 12 at 7 p.m. Session approved the annual statistical report by email vote and Susanne filed it with PCUSA. Session also approved proceeding with Esteban's \$39K bid to begin work on the Ed. Bldg. dry rot and drainage situation, by email vote.

- **MSP** to approve minutes of the Feb. 6, 2024 stated Session meeting.

Buildings & Grounds Update: Ben and Noel Moritz reported that work on the dry rot/drainage/retaining wall situation by the Ed. Bldg. is underway. We received one other bid for \$15K to deal with just the dry rot. However, it would end up being more costly to split the work into dry rot/drainage issues. Esteban agreed to be paid half under our current budget cycle and half under the 2024/2025 budget cycle.

Noel further reported that B & G has met with the Ordonez family to update the custodial contract. We have received bids from other services that indicate the Ordonez family has underbid for services. Under the proposed contract, they would receive an 8 1/2% increase; times/days for performing duties would be tightened up; MPC would be given a week's notice if they cannot come on Sunday; and the family would receive passes for two absent Sundays - thereafter they would not be paid for a missed Sunday.

Annual Evaluations

- **Stewardship & Fundraising:** Helen delivered the attached report to session. Note that Stewardship Chair Cynthia Blumgart "needs more support."
- **Membership & Outreach:** Mike Forbes and Steve McKiernan delivered the attached report. Message to all: "Keep your welcoming hat on!"

Be Well Class: Clementina Chacon, Executive director and pastor of Be Well, a PCUSA new worshipping community, is "under care" of our session. Be Well is organizing an upcoming suicide prevention training that will take place in our Family Room on Saturday, April 27. Clementina has identified the need for a secure payment option for participants to pay the registration fee. Thus she approached session about adding a "Be Well" fund to our online giving option to receive payments to Be Well.

- **MSP** to approve adding a “Be Well” fund to MPC’s online giving platform.

Pastoral Care Survey: Katie Kilby explained that the pastoral care survey confirmed that there is no clear understanding of what pastoral care means. (See appended Pastoral Care report.) A number of folks feel they are cared for by the MPC community, while others are “falling through the cracks.” The need for respite care was raised, but this is a service that is beyond the capability of our Beacon program. Note: Cheryl Geckler has a resource list for respite care. Discussion highlighted the question: what is the role of a Beacon? Is the purpose of the program to provide some form of pastoral care, or mainly to build community and convene social events? There are Beacons in each camp. It was suggested that we might need a team to think about the direction of the Beacon program, whether it should be expanded, etc . The issue of communication also looms large. How do we communicate about what folks need; what are the expectations; how are we meeting identified needs. Katie committed to convening a group to explore communication issues related to pastoral care.

Mission for Homeless: Allen Spore informed session that he was working with the Food and Shelter Committee to prepare a grant proposal to assist Oakland’s Mission for Homeless in providing housing and other needs for the unhoused community in Oakland. Susanne added that we will be submitting the proposal to the Presbytery’s Central Region for a \$50,000 grant. Proposal to come to session next month for approval.

Innovation Committee: Cindy Gullikson reported that the Renew Team is committed to getting the newly formed Innovation Committee off the ground and will come back to session next month with a proposed liaison and recruitment plan.

Staff Reports: Katie has finished Godly Play training (very helpful). She is moving! Ben has been asked to sit on the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Presbytery (there is a current case).

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

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Lea
Clerk of Session