

MONTCLAIR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Session Minutes

March 4, 2025

Elders Present: Rob Elia; Gretchen Garlinghouse; Karen Ray Gibson; Rick Heller; Sari Kulberg; Jean Roggenkamp; Linda Spencer; May Tong; Jerry White

Elders Elect Present: Tara Flanagan; Eloise Gilland; Pat Schwinn; Allen Spore; Brenda Steinmetz-Vallenas

Elders Absent: Linda Benson; Margaretha Derasary; Rick Heller; Leslie Louie

Staff Present: Rev. Ben Daniel; Katie Kilby

Others Present: Suzanne Jones; Art Paull

Clerks Report: Rev. Ben Daniel called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Karen Ray Gibson offered the opening reflection. Session meets again on Tuesday, April 1, 2025. Presbytery meets in person on May 13 at Newark Presbyterian Church. Susanne reported for the minutes that the annual statistical report was filed timely with PCUSA. Newly elected session members were welcomed!

- **MSP** to approve minutes of the Feb. 4, 2025 stated Session meeting.
- **MSP** to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2025 congregational meeting.
- **MSP** to approve Allen Spore and Susanne Lea as signatories on our New Covenant Funds account.
- **MSP** to close our Twitter account.

Fundraising Report: Suzanne Jones delivered the annual evaluation for the Fundraising Committee (attached) and updated session on the upcoming plant sale and auction.

Recommendations from Earthcare Committee and Peace & Justice Committee (PJC):

Suzanne Jones and Eloise Gilland presented recommendations for action and policy reform from the Earthcare Committee and the PJC. Many recommendations flowed from a recent MPC class offered by the Democracy and Politics Team of the Earthcare Committee. (See attached Democracy & Politics Goals, and Sanctuary People Interest Form and Sanctuary People Resource List). Following discussion:

MSP to submit these items to email vote.

Presbytery Commissioner report: Presbytery Commissioner Linda Spencer reported on the Feb.11 Presbytery meeting at Clayton Valley PC. Ben was installed as co-moderator and delivered a fiery sermon! The Truth Commission report assessing race equity in the Presbytery was received and unanimously approved. An accusation has been launched against First Pres Hayward for misappropriation of \$700,000.

Annual Evaluations

1. **Celebration Committee:** Liaison Karen Ray Gibson presented the annual evaluation for the Celebration Committee (attached). The report notes that the committee was disappointed that we did not have a "kick-off" Sunday this year.
2. **Membership and Outreach (M & O):** Liaison Jerry White delivered the evaluation for M

& O. The committee grieves the loss of Bill Neely. We are getting more visitors. Sloan White has agreed to co-chair the committee. Steve McKiernan would like to step down as co-chair. On the committee's radar: M & O is exploring a short video series on what MPC is all about.

Pastoral Care Update: Katie Kilby reported that we now have an urgent pastoral care phone line. Additionally, we are in the process of convening a pastoral care team.

Outgoing Session Members: A thousand thank-you's to our outstanding outgoing class of elders: Gretchen Garlinghouse; Jean Roggenkamp; Linda Spencer and May Tong!!

Staff Reports: Katie has been approved as a candidate in the ordination process. Ben is in a season of extreme activity: a book deal; three memorial services; co-moderator of Presbytery,

Ben closed with prayer at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Lea
Clerk of Session