

MONTCLAIR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Session Minutes

Feb. 3, 2026

Elders Present: Linda Benson; Margaretha Derasary; Tara Flanagan; Karen Ray Gibson; Eloise Gilland; Rick Heller; Sari Kulberg; Allen Spore; Jerry White

Elders Absent: Rob Elia; Pat Schwinn

Staff Present: Rev. Ben Daniel; Katie Kilby

Clerks Report: Rev. Ben Daniel called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Sari Kulberg offered the opening reflection, Session meets again on Tuesday, March 3, 2026. Presbytery meets on Feb. 10, 2026. We will hold a congregational meeting on March 1, 2026 for the purpose of electing a new class of session elders.

- **MSP** to approve minutes of the Jan.6, 2026 stated session meeting.
- **MSP** to approve the PCUSA 2025 statistical report.

Safety Task Force: Mark Smith for the Safety Task Force presented a proposed service agreement from First Alarm to upgrade campus security per the following: panic buttons; intrusion detection systems for the sanctuary, Family and Thornhill Rooms; intrusion detective systems for the office and the Education Bldg. and a camera in the office. Installation costs total approximately \$4,690.00, Going forward, monthly costs will run in the neighborhood of \$450, or approximately \$5,400 annually.

MSP to accept the First Alarm proposal to upgrade campus security.

Nominating Committee: Committee chair Sari Kulberg reported that the following people have agreed to serve as elders: Deborah Brooks, Cynthia Cudaback, Shelley Kelly and Martha Smith. Additionally, Pat Schwinn will serve one year of Brenda Steinmetz-Vallena's term.

Annual Evaluations

- **Beacons:** Margaretha Derasary presented the attached report, announcing that the Beacons voted to dissolve last Fall.
- **Nominating Committee:** Rob Elia delivered the attached report from the Nominating Committee

Fundraising Committee: Susanne urged session members to buy tickets to the More Light Concert, volunteer to help with the fundraiser, and contribute to session's wine auction item.

Finance Committee: Allen Spore presented the attached quarterly financial statements, noting that next year there is a potential to lose close to \$40,000 in contributions due to death, leaving MPC and personal financial situations.

Pastoral Care: Katie Kilby reported that the Pastoral Care Team – composed of Karen Ray Gibson, May Tong, Cheryl Geckler and Kit Land – has an ear to the congregation in terms of pastoral care needs. With the demise of the Beacon program, there is now a need for more hands-on care work. Although MPC has a vibrant informal network of care, there is a hesitation to commit to an organized care team.

Children and Youth:: Katie reported that the Confirm not Conform program is focusing on designing a service project for the participants.

Ben closed with prayer at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Lea
Clerk of Session