

MONTCLAIR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Session Minutes

July 1, 2025

Elders Present: Linda Benson; Margaretha Derasary; Rob Elia; Tara Flanagan; Karen Ray Gibson; Eloise Gilland; Rick Heller; Sari Kulberg; Allen Spore; Brenda Steinmetz-Vallenas; Jerry White

Elders Absent: Patt Schwinn

Others Present: Al Peters

Staff Present: Rev. Ben Daniel; Katie Kilby

Clerks Report: Rev. Ben Daniel called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.; Brenda Steinmetz-Vallenas gave the opening reflection.

Session meets again on Tuesday, August 5, 2025. Presbytery meets in person on August 12.

- **MSP** to approve minutes of the June 3, 2025 stated session meeting.
- **MSP** to set a congregational meeting for August 17 to approve Rev. Daniel's terms of call.
- **MSP** to approve the request of Covenant Network of Presbyterians for a gift of \$250.00

Nominating Committee: Nominating Committee chair Sari Kulberg reported that of three suggestions she received for Buildings and Grounds Committee and co-chair, Lisa Thogersen has agreed to serve on the committee and Mark Smith is thinking about taking on the co-chair position. Allen Todd is still coordinating the sound crew. Alex has been extended a first right of refusal for any Sunday, and Allen will ask Alex to reach out to friends and colleagues about joining the sound crew.

Stewardship and Personnel Reports: Clerk of session Susanne Lea reported that we now have 100 pledges and non-pledge givers, compared with 91 last year. Pledges as of 6/24/25 totalled \$337,000, vs. \$331,000 last year. Personnel is recommending a 2% increase across the board for all staff, based on the CPI for the SF Bay Area.

Finance Committee: Al Peters presented the year end financial statements and proposed 2025-2026 budget (attached). We ended the year with \$30,000 saved in B & G expenses. We also ended up in the red, which poses the question: do we want to add the surplus to the B & G fund? Allen Spore, Rick Heller, Susanne, Ben and Katie Kilby will meet with Al Peters on Thursday, 8/17 at 2:30 p.m. to finalize the budget.

Leadership Retreat: Ben noted that we need to find a location for the November retreat. Karen Ray Gibson, Sari, Jerry White and Susanne volunteered to help organize the retreat.

Staff Reports: Katie will be meeting with middle school families to test interest in starting a confirmation class. Ben has finished the rough draft of his book.

Ben closed with prayer at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Lea, Clerk of Session

