

STATED SESSION MEETING MINUTES
September 1, 2015 7:00 PM in the Family Room

Elders Present: Amy Bess, Francie Chan, Cynthia Cudaback, Margaretha Derasary, Sue Davies, Gretchen Garlinghouse, Shelley Kelly, Mary Ellen McKey, Sharon Noteboom, Anna Santos, David Siegenthaler

Elders Excused: Betsy King, Rayno Niemi

Staff Present: Rev. Ben Daniel, Talitha Philips

Others Present: Leonard Nielson

Rev. Ben Daniel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mary Ellen McKey offered the opening prayer.

Clerk's Report: The next regular session meeting is Tuesday, October 6, 2015. Presbytery will meet September 8 at Calvary P.C., San Francisco. Talitha Phillips' installation takes place September 12 at 5 p.m., followed by kick-off Sunday, September 13.

Susanne Lea reminded session members to respond to the deadlines set forth in the "Trolling for agenda topics" email she sends out between session meetings. She reported for the minutes that Cameron Thompson was baptized on July 12 and Melyssa Snyder and Maggie Harmon were baptized on August 30.

- **MSP** the minutes of the July 21, 2015 stated session meeting.
- **MSP** the minutes of the JULY 26, 2015 congregational meeting.

Capital Project Team: Leonard Nielson reported that the zoning and creek permits have been filed, as has the compliance audit. He is now ready to file the building permit on an expedited basis. Two companies have submitted bids based on a three-month project; Leonard has worked with both companies and is satisfied with the numbers in both bids. Leonard in effect is acting as the third bidder. One company came in at \$163,000, the other a bit higher.

- **MSP** to cap the construction contract for the manse conversion at \$163,000, and authorize Leonard Nielson to select either of the two bidding companies.
- **MSP** to authorize Leonard Nielson to file the building permit for the manse conversion.

Ben shared that there will be time set aside after Celebration on the last two Sundays in September to invite input from folks about what they want the outdoor spaces (courtyard and area in front of sanctuary) to feel like, communicate and do. The idea is that designers will then develop a design based on this input.

Fundraising Committee: Sharon Noteboom updated session on the fundraising committee's plans. The committee has drafted a statement of purpose and letter to send to a group of potential donors selected with hopes of

securing large donations. The title of the capital campaign is “Building a Sustainable Future.”

Family Life Committee: Cynthia Cudaback delivered the attached report, and highlighted a need to recruit future subcommittee leaders and members. The committee is developing job descriptions for the heads of the three Family Life subcommittees – big events, hospitality and small groups. As well, Family Life is hosting a dessert potluck/Recruitment Fair on October 5.

Adult Education: Margaretha Derasary reported that Family Life is now taking over some of the courses that Adult Ed used to host, such as the cooking classes. Since we are now an earth care congregation under the PCUSA, the committee is working with SPLASH on an earth care class that would support this commitment.

Personnel Committee: Francie Chan reported that the Personnel Committee posted the job description for the administrative assistant position; received 46 applications; and is in the process of winnowing the pool down to five or six interviewees.

Francie also raised the point that there is an unwritten understanding that MPC should not hire members or friends of the congregation for open positions; the origin of this policy is unknown. On the other hand, committee members with human resources experience recommend always hiring the best qualified person for the job, regardless of ties to the congregation. Two of the applicants for the Godly Play master teacher position are friends of the family. It was pointed out that this is a part time position and the position does not raise the same concerns as the administrative assistant position with respect to access to confidential information about church members and friends.

- **MSP** to hire the Godly Play Master Teacher without regard to his or her ties to the congregation.

Note that David Siegenthaler abstained from this discussion and vote.

Membership and Outreach: Anna Santos explained that the committee is revamping the membership process. Four explorer meetings are calendared for the upcoming year.

Staff Reports: Ben has enjoyed teaching the Women and Reformation class and preaching on peace and just wars. He will be taking Fridays off to coincide with Anne’s day off.

Talitha has been ordained and will be installed on September 12!! She is planning a party for young(er) MPC adults.

Ben closed with prayer at 9:05.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Lea
Clerk of Session