

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

Elders Present: Amy Bess, Francie Chan, Margaretha Derasary, Gretchen Garlinghouse, Shelley Kelly, Betsy King, Mary Ellen McKey, Rayno Niemi, Sharon Noteboom, Anna Santos, David Siegenthaler

Elders Excused: Cynthia Cudaback, Sue Davies

Staff Present: Rev. Ben Daniel, Sherrill Figuera, Talitha Philips

Others Present: Suzanne Jones, Carrie McKiernan, Art Paull, Al Peters, Linda Spencer, Susan ten Bosch Paull

Rev. Ben Daniel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Amy Bess offered the opening prayer.

Clerk's Report: The next regular session meeting is Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Presbytery will meet April 14 at First Pres. Burlingame. Susanne Lea reviewed the new session member assignments and protocol for getting items onto the session agenda, and distributed the prayer sign-up list for session meetings. She reported for the minutes that the new class of elders met for a training session on March 20 and were ordained and installed on March 22.

- **MSP** the minutes of the March 10, 2015 stated session meeting.
- **MSP** Amy Bess as chair of Nominations Committee.
- **MSP** to serve as Presbytery Commissioners: Chuck Dormann, Jean Gregory, Susanne Lea and Bill Neely, with David Siegenthaler as alternate.
- **MSP** to serve as officers of the David Russell Memorial Endowment Trust Fund: Cynthia Cudaback, President; Margaretha Derasary, Secretary; Al Peters, Chief Financial Officer.
- **MSP** Susanne Lea to serve as Clerk of Session.
- **MSP** to serve as officers of the corporation: Cynthia Cudaback, President; Susanne Lea, Secretary; Al Peters, Treasurer.
- **MSP** May 3, 2015 for congregational meeting to receive APNC report.

Stewardship Report: Stewardship chair Carrie McKiernan presented the draft stewardship letter and explained that the stewardship drive will take place May 3 through May 24. She is revising the brochure to be more transparent about where our money comes from and where it goes. The brochure will also reflect step units and what it takes, e.g. on a weekly basis, to step up to the next level.

- **MSP** the stewardship letter

Capital Campaign: Linda Spencer reviewed the attached Feasibility Study with Session. She explained that a Capital Projects Team (CPT) will be set up to vet proposed projects for the capital campaign.

- **MSP** to move forward with the Capital Campaign; create the CPT to carry out the campaign; set the launch date to occur after we have heard back from the CPT and set \$500,000 as the minimum floor for the campaign.

Susanne presented the attached consulting agreement with Leonard Nielson pursuant to which he would review proposed site improvements.

- **MSP** the agreement with a \$10,000 cap, contingent on Susanne clarifying with Leonard the use of the term “Owner” as it appears in Schedule A.

SPLASH Committee: Art Paull and David Siegenthaler presented the committee’s proposal to apply to become an Earth Care Congregation under PCUSA’s Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice Program. Pursuant to this program we pledge to bring our celebration services, education programs, facilities and outreach into greater agreement with environmental principles and practices. Under this program we complete an audit and first year application, and undergo recertification each year.

- **MSP** moving forward on the Earth Care Congregation application

SPLASH Committee also proposed an MPC Climate Pledge (attached), which includes specific actions individuals can take to reduce climate change. Session members expressed a desire to develop buy-in and consensus from the congregation around specific items to include on a climate change pledge.

Children & Youth Committee: Suzanne Jones, co-chair of Children & Youth Committee, introduced a proposal (attached) to hire a master teacher for Godly Play. With the growth of our children’s program, there is a need to split Godly Play into two classes. This teacher would work primarily with the younger classroom. Our Mission Study was clear: the quality of MPC’s children and youth programs is important to the viability of the church. A master teacher would bring consistency to the program, improve the quality of storytelling, and provide support and training for our volunteers. The budget for hiring a teacher for 40 to 50 weeks per year would range from \$5100 to \$6100 per year.

- **MPS** to approve in principle the C & Y Committee’s proposal to hire a master Godly Play teacher.

Finance Committee: Al Peters reported that we now have the \$150,000 settlement from the Stewart Trust. Individual loans from church members to the prior capital campaign are due in January 2016. Al indicated that one of the

members who loaned funds has asked to be repaid earlier. He suggested that we use \$50,000 from the trust to honor this request.

- **MSP** to expend \$50,000 from the Stewart Trust funds to repay a loan from a church member to the prior capital campaign.

Applegarden Lease: Ben kicked off a discussion about the future of the property now housing the Applegarden Montessori School. What does session regard as the best use of the property? Director Naome Cragstedt has given notice that Applegarden intends to vacate the premises as of August 1, but subsequently has put out mixed messages.

- **MSP** to accept Naome's offer to vacate the Applegarden premises as of August 1, 2015.

Membership and Outreach: Per Gretchen Garlinghouse's motion:

- **MSP** the removal of Betsy Minkler from the church rolls, per her request.

Ordonez Family Housing Crisis: Susanne related that we currently are applying to rent a house on 13th Avenue for the Ordonez family. To ease the process, it would be preferable to identify MPC as the lessee on the lease instead of the adults in the Ordonez family.

- **MSP** to permit identifying MPC as the potential lessee on applications for Ordonez family housing.

Ben adjourned the meeting with prayer at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Lea, Clerk of Session