

Stated Session Meeting Minutes
December 2, 2014 7 PM in the Thornhill Room

Elders Present: Lee Aurich, Amy Bess, Francie Chan, Cynthia Cudaback, Sue Davies, Jean Gregory, Karen Ray Gibson, Susanne Lea, Anna Santos, David Siegenthaler

Elders Excused: Margaretha Derasary, Betsy King, Bill Neely, Sharon Noteboom

Staff Present: Rev. Ben Daniel; Talitha Phillips

Others Present: Carrie McKiernan, Art Paull

Rev. Ben Daniel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Karen Ray Gibson offered the opening prayer.

Clerk's Report: Session will meet again on Tuesday, January 6, 2015. Presbytery meets Tuesday, Feb. 20, location TBD. Session liaisons are encouraged to complete the annual evaluation with the appropriate committee chair.

- **MSP** the minutes of the October 28, 2014 stated session meeting.
- **MSP** the minutes of the Nov. 30, 2014 congregational meeting.
- **MSP** the removals reflected on the attached membership and outreach report.

SPLASH Statement on Climate Change: Art Paull of the SPLASH Committee presented the committee's draft statement on Climate Change, which calls on our congregation to become involved in efforts to reduce our personal and national carbon footprints. Specifically, SPLASH recommends that we establish close affiliations with two larger faith-based institutions: California Interfaith Power and Light (CIPL) and the PCUSA through its environmental ministries.

- **MSP** to approve the SPLASH statement on Climate Change

Fundraising: Stewardship Chair Carrie McKiernan joined session for a discussion on fundraising matters, namely what is our philosophy for giving, and how do we best engage with folks in presenting fundraising opportunities. All agreed that we need a statement outlining MPC's philosophy for giving.

The need for someone to coordinate PCUSA fundraisers was discussed. Susanne will ask Chuck Dormann if he is willing to take on this role.

Capital Campaign: The Finance Committee is recommending that we launch a capital campaign in September 2015 to raise funds to (1) retire approximately \$309,000 in debt comprising funds borrowed from various sources for capital improvements in excess of amounts raised from our prior capital campaign; and (2) provide for capital needs over the next five to ten years. Issues for session decision include:

- When to launch the campaign
- Monetary goal of the campaign
- Establishing a committee to organize and promote the campaign

Session discussed the need for education and transparent communication concerning the \$309,000 remaining debt. Additionally, questions were raised concerning whether to include an external giving component versus applying 100% of proceeds to the MPC capital fund, or whether to offer folks a choice. We also touched on the role and usefulness of consultants. Susanne will ask Linda Spencer, chair of the prior capital campaign, to attend our next meeting.

Social Justice Steering Committee Report, Part One: Jean Gregory shared that the Faith Trio Harvest Dinner was a great event, with good discussion and sharing. Joining Hands has lost its staff on the national level. We need to think through our commitment to the Joining Hands mission.

Ordonez family update: Anna Santos reported that Mr. Ordonez has lost his job and needs work. Currently the family is living in a one-room garage and needs a regular home! A mini-van would be also be very helpful.

Family Life Report: Cynthia Cudaback delivered the annual evaluation for Family Life (attached). Family Life is rebooting, and now operates on three levels: weekly family life events; major family life events; and the new small group program, which has been quite successful.

Staff Reports: Talitha Phillips and Ben reported on their activities over the past month and submitted the attached written reports. Ben met with the principal of Thornhill Elementary. Responding to Ben's offer of assistance, the principal indicated the need for meeting space and a support group facilitator for mothers who are victims of domestic violence. Francie offered to facilitate a support group.

Compensation Package for Coordinator for Children, Youth & Family

Life: Talitha left the meeting and session went into executive session.

Returning from executive session:

- **MSP** to increase Talitha's salary to the Presbytery minimum salary (\$54,000) commencing January 1, 2015, the increase over current salary to be funded through the Associate Pastor reserve fund.

Closing Prayer by Ben at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Lea
Clerk of Session