

STATED SESSION MEETING MINUTES
January 7, 2014 7 PM in the Thornhill Room

Elders Present: Lee Aurich, Francie Chan, Cynthia Cudaback, Margaretha Derasary, Rob Elia, Karen Ray Gibson, Jean Gregory, Susanne Lea, Leslie Louie, Carrie McKiernan, Bill Neely, Brant Nicholas, Sharon Noteboom, Bob Saltz, David Siegenthaler

Staff Present: Rev. Melinda McLain, Talitha Philips, Rev. Kathy Ray

Rev. Kathy Ray called the meeting to order at 7:00. Cynthia Cudaback offered the opening prayer.

Clerk's Report: The next regular session meeting is Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. Presbytery will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 28 at John Knox Presbyterian Church in Dublin. Rev. Ben Daniel will be received into our presbytery at this time. Our per capita contribution, based on 238 members as of 12/31/12, is \$8,366, or \$35.15 per person. The annual statistical report is due February 20, 2014.

Email communication between the co-Trustee of the Robert Stewart Trust and Al Peters, Finance Chair, was discussed and received into the minutes. MPC is a residual beneficiary of the Robert Stewart Trust. The December, 2013 Adult Education report was also received into the minutes.

Naome Dragstedt from the Applegarden Montessori School has requested to use the facility for a special toddler program on Saturday mornings from approximately 9 a.m. to noon. As this request does not conflict with the use clause or any other lease provision, no session action is needed.

- **MSP** the minutes of the December 3, 2013 stated session meeting.
- **MSP** the minutes of the Jan. 5, 2013 congregation meeting as corrected.
- **MSP** to approve the following 2014 communion schedule: Communion shall be performed once a month during Sunday Celebration, at family camp, at church retreats, and upon request for hospital and home visits; to authorize baptism for those presented for baptism during Celebration services; and to authorize email votes on matters needing immediate session attention that arise between session meetings.
- **MSP** to hold a congregational meeting on February 23, 2014 for the purposes of electing the next class of session elders and receiving the auditors' report.
- **MSP** to authorize the clerk of session to send letters acknowledging the service and fellowship of people who withdraw their membership from MPC.

Stewardship Letter and Schedule: Rev. Melinda McLain presented a draft stewardship for session's consideration. Suggestions included asking folks to

consider giving 5% of their income or more. Melinda will revise the letter accordingly with the plan of mailing it January 19. The idea is to have a six-week stewardship campaign, concluding March 2. Carrie McKiernan has agreed to serve as chair of Stewardship. Rob Elia and Brant Nicholas have offered to serve on the committee.

Food Ministries: Susanne reported that our food barrels have been overflowing; many MPC folks turned out to bag oranges at the Food Bank on December 31; and we had a great December turnout at the Fruitvale Food Pantry, with youth serving breakfast to participants. There are upcoming opportunities to prepare and serve meals at St. Mary's Center in Oakland as well as the Friday night College Avenue Presbyterian Church dinner program.

Membership and Outreach: Bill Neely presented the attached Membership and Outreach Report.

- **MSP** to approve the removals and requests for transfer as reflected in the report.

Annual Evaluations: Session members received most of the evaluations for the first time at tonight's meeting. Therefore, Session agreed to defer review of the evaluations to a later date, scheduling the review over the course of the next several session meetings.

Transition Planning: Ben's first Sunday at MPC is March 23, 2014. Kathy Ray volunteered to preach on March 16. Bill Neely offered to host a potluck dinner for Ben prior to our April session meeting. Carrie brought up the notion of a pastor relations task force to be a sounding board for Ben during his first months with us; participation could include PNC members and others as well. Lee Aurich identified the need to have a process to ensure that Ben succeeds, a process that would include looking at the strengths and weaknesses of the pastor, and identifying areas for coaching. Discussion ensued as to whether session or the personnel committee should shepherd such a process.

Staff Reports: Session received the attached staff reports.

Kathy closed with prayer at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Lea, Clerk of Session