

Stated Session Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2015 7 PM in the Thornhill Room

Elders Present: Lee Aurich, Amy Bess, Francie Chan, Cynthia Cudaback, Margaretha Derasary, Sue Davies, Jean Gregory, Karen Ray Gibson, Betsy King, Susanne Lea, Bill Neely, Sharon Noteboom, Anna Santos, David Siegenthaler

Staff Present: Rev. Ben Daniel, Taliha Phillips

Others Present: Carrie McKiernan, Linda Spencer

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

Clerk's Report: Session will meet again on Tuesday, February 3, 2015. Presbytery meets Tuesday, Feb. 20, at Sojourner Truth in Richmond. The annual statistical report is due February 19, 2015. The per capita assessment for the coming year is \$35.15 per the reported 223 members.

Session received the auditors' financial audit for the past fiscal year. Clerk of Session Susanne Lea encouraged all liaisons to complete the appropriate annual evaluation with the appropriate committee chair.

- **MSP** the minutes of the Dec. 2, 2014 stated session meeting, as corrected.
- **MSP** to hold a congregational meeting on February 22, 2015.
- **MSP** to approve the following 2015 Communion schedule:
Communion shall be performed once a month during Sunday Celebration, at family camp, at church retreats, at Christmas Eve services, and upon request for home and hospital visits; to authorize baptisms for those presented for baptism during Celebration services; and to authorize email votes on matters needing immediate session attention that arise between session meetings.

Capital Campaign: Linda Spencer raised several key considerations for capital fundraising at MPC. The proposed campaign would raise funds to (1) retire \$309,000 in debt made up of member loans and a Synod loan as well as funds borrowed from MPC general fund; and

(2) provide financing for new capital improvement projects over the next five to ten years.

- **MSP** to authorize creation of a Capital Campaign Exploratory Committee (CCEC) and charge the Nominating Committee with authority to add new members, if necessary;
- **MSP** to charge the CCEC to conduct a feasibility study and report back to session in April, 2015;
- **MSP** to authorize the CCEC to explore need and funding for fundraising consultant for the feasibility study;
- **MSP** to acknowledge a \$500,000 “target” for capital campaign, to be completed by Christmas, 2015;
- **MSP** to authorize Buildings and Grounds Committee to develop a list of capital projects.

Plant Sale and Auction: Carrie McKiernan and Amy Bess reported that the plant sale and auction would be a combined affair this year, so as not to double up on resources and burn out folks. There is enthusiasm around participating on the planning committee.

Finance Committee:

Robert Stewart Trust: Following negotiations between MPC’s Ad Hoc Robert Stewart Trust Committee and the trustees of the Robert Stewart Trust, the trustees reluctantly offered to pay MPC \$150,000 (roughly 10% of the current value of the trust assets) in exchange for relinquishing our remainder beneficiary interest in the trust. The Finance Committee recommends that we accept this offer. See attached memo from the ad hoc committee, which details its analysis of the offer and rationale for why MPC should accept the offer.

- **MSP** to accept the trustees’ offer of \$150,000 to relinquish our residual remainder interest in the trust.

Discussion concerning the use of the proceeds was tabled for a later date.

Applegarden Lease: Applegarden has expended \$800 on electrical work in the kitchen and faces expenses of between \$5,000 and \$7,000 to install a fire suppression system required by the Fire Marshall. The director had the kitchen electrical work done without consulting us; however, the upgrade is of benefit to MPC. The fire

suppression system is an upgrade solely occasioned by the Applegarden's status as a licensed preschool.

- **MPS** to pay one half of the fee for the electrical work in the kitchen;
- **MSP** not to pay for any of the fire suppression system.

Personnel Committee: Anna Santos delivered the annual Personnel Committee evaluation (see attached). Marge Nicholson and Leslie Louie will be going off the committee on April 1, 2015.

Membership and Outreach: Bill Neely reported that the Montclair Holiday Stroll was successful. We have new banners!

Social Justice Annual Evaluation, Part 2: Betsy King led us through Part 2 of the Social Justice Evaluation. The social justice structure is solid, but more involvement, participation and energy is needed. Session members suggested various ways in which to involve more and new people.

Ordonez Family update: Anna reported that we delivered wrapped gifts and substantial gift funds to the Ordonez family for Christmas. They still need a proper home!

APNC: Francie Chan indicated that the committee is meeting twice a month and is on track.

Staff Reports: Staff reports were received.
Closing Prayer by Ben at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Lea, Clerk of Session