

STATED SESSION MEETING MINUTES
July 15, 2014 7 PM in the Thornhill Room

Elders Present: Amy Bess, Francie Chan, Cynthia Cudaback, Sue Davies, Margaretha Derasary, Jean Gregory, Betsy King, Susanne Lea, Sharon Noteboom, Anna Santos, David Siegenthaler

Elders Excused: Lee Aurich, Karen Ray Gibson, Bill Neely

Staff Present: Rev. Ben Daniel; Talitha Phillips

Others Present: Al Peters

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

Clerk's Report: Session will meet again on Tuesday, September 2, 2014. The next Presbytery meeting is the following Tuesday, September 9 at First Pres., Oakland.

Susanne Lea reminded session liaison to fill out and turn in the routine liaison reports. Session received the Adult Ed. Report.

- **MSP** the minutes of the June 3, 2014 stated session meeting.
- **MSP** the minutes of the July 13, 2014 congregational meeting.
- **MSP** to authorize staff to have MPC credit cards with Fells Fargo Bank, for church purposes.

Finance Committee: Al Peters presented the attached proposed 2014-2015 budget of \$435,300. He explained that the session-appointed subcommittee met after the June meeting to slash the budget deficit of approximately \$24,670. The subcommittee whittled down the deficit to \$4,850. Session also eliminated an additional \$500. Of note, the 2013-2014 fiscal year ended with net income (excess revenue) of approximately \$8,200.

- **MSP** to adopt and balance the proposed budget by transferring excess revenue from the 2013-2014 budget into the 2014-2015 budget.

Next, Al brought to Session's attention the recent offer made by the trustees of the Robert Stewart Jr. Trust to relinquish our residual beneficiary position for \$20,000.

- **MSP** to appoint a subcommittee of Al, Amy Bess, Earl Hamlin and Lee Aurich to craft a responding counter-offer for session review and approval.

Al also reminded session that the Applegarden lease expires in two years. Applegarden wants to improve the play structures (approximately \$10-\$20,000) but does not want to proceed with the expenditure until there is confirmation of a

lease extension. AI noted that currently we are not getting market value for the leased property.

- **MSP** to appoint a subcommittee to explore the appropriate rent and terms of a lease extension and report back to session.

Finally, AI reported that SPLASH would like to organize a fundraiser to help pay for the solar panels. The idea is that folks could participate in supporting our “going solar” by “buying” a solar panel for \$1,000 each, or half a panel for \$500. There are 66 panels. The funds would be used to pay down the \$35,000 in individual member loans. Talitha Phillips recommended Suzanne Jones to head up the effort. Art Paull will also talk with Stewardship Chair Carrie McKiernan.

- **MSP** to authorize the solar panel fundraising effort.

Joining Hands: Jean Gregory reported that MPC has been involved with Joining Hands Bolivia for 12 years. Participation has decreased, both in terms of MPC volunteers and the involvement of other congregations. MPC is now the only church supporting the program in our presbytery. Jean called a meeting to ask: should we shut down? Ben attended the meeting and expressed interest in the mission, which is to identify the root causes of poverty. Jean requested \$2,500 to send Ben to Bolivia in September. Session members suggested that waiting until 2015 would be beneficial: there would be time to pull together a bigger delegation, recruit other folks from San Francisco Presbytery, and perhaps involve some youth. August might be a better time than September.

- **MSP** to empower Global Concerns and Joining Hands to organize a trip to Bolivia for 2015.

Hadsell Futures Fund Proposal: John Hadsell is contemplating making a substantial gift to MPC to seed a fund to bring in renowned speakers and establish a resource library dedicated to exploring the many facets of the future of Christianity. See attached descriptive letter. He proposes that the Adult Education Committee oversee the fund by inviting speakers and initially developing the resource library.

- **MSP** to approve the Hadsell Futures Fund proposal.

Buildings and Grounds Report: B & G liaison Susanne reported that we now have a functioning B & G Committee, with Marilee Bailey and Allen Todd serving as co-chairs. Sherrill Figuera is the staff representative. A fall workday is in the works, as our several longer-term projects. See attached report.

Renew Commitment to OCO: Ben requested that we renew our commitment to OCO.

- **MSP** that MPC continue as a participating member in OCO.

Path to Ordaining Talitha: Ben opened discussion on pursuing a path to ordaining Talitha. In June, Ben pulled together an ad hoc group of stakeholders in Talitha's ministry (Team Talitha) to explore the possibility of upgrading Talitha's status from Coordinator for Children, Youth and Family Life to Associate Pastor. The financial differential between an ordained Associate Pastor and a Coordinator is around \$20,000 per year. Our Associate Pastor reserve fund currently contains over \$40,000. Team Talitha agreed that much of the increased compensation for the first few years could be met by drawing down on this fund. Besides the financial jump, we would also have to work with the Committee on Ministry (COM) of San Francisco Presbytery to arrive at the most expeditious way to ordain Talitha. Team Talitha, although not a formal committee of session, informally petitioned session to consider moving forward on a process to ordain and install Talitha.

- **MSP** to pursue this process by engaging in conversation with COM to define a path to ordination, and approving Team Talitha as the pool of people from which an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee will be drawn and proposed to the congregation.

Staff Reports: Staff reports were received from Ben and Talitha (attached).

Evaluation: Thumbs up!

Closing Prayer by Ben at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Lea
Clerk of Session