

STATED SESSION MEETING MINUTES
March 4, 2014 7 PM in the Thornhill Room

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

Elders Excused: Lee Aurich, Karen Ray Gibson

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

Guests: Elders elect Amy Bess, Sue Davies, Betsy King and Anna Santos

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

Clerk's Report: The next regular session meeting is Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. Presbytery will meet March 11 at Covenant Presbyterian Church, San Francisco. Susanne indicated she will send appreciation letters to outgoing committee chairs as well as departing church members.

Susanne circulated a signup sheet for the April 2 potluck at Bill Neely's home to welcome Ben.

Starting mid-April, the Celebration Committee will absorb the greeters' function, formerly lodged with the Welcome Committee. Debbie Fallehy, chair of Welcome Committee, has proposed that session members serve as greeters in the interim; signups were taken.

- **MSP** the minutes of the February 4, 2014 stated session meeting
- **MSP** the minutes of the February 23, 2014 congregational meeting

Yule Feast Report: Talitha Phillips reported that the silent auction raised approximately \$7,600. Next year the event will stand alone, separate from the Yule Feast. The Yule Feast team has created a Manual of Operations so we will have a paper trail for future feasts.

Plant Sale: MPC will hold a plant sale/fundraiser the last weekend of April. Amy Bess is chairing the event.

- **MSP** to approve the plant sale/fundraiser

Annual Evaluations:

1. **Family Life and Welcome Committees:** Family Life liaison Cynthia Cudaback raised a number of issues for session consideration, including:

- Should there be cluster meetings with the Men's Team and Storytellers?
- How should Family Life relate to other committees?
- Should Family Life emphasize more smaller events, or bigger events? On a straw vote, session favored having more and smaller Family Life events.
- What do folks want Family Life to accomplish? Its overall mission is to bring people together across generations in meaningful ways.

Session also discussed the broader topic of how to help new people find ways to "enter" the MPC community and become connected. Signupgenius.com was mentioned as an excellent tool for signing folks up for various church activities and events.

Debbie has proposed folding the Welcome Committee into Family Life. Cynthia noted that the welcome function might also make sense in Membership and Outreach.

- **MSP to** merge the Welcome Committee into Family Life.

2. Congregational Care: Liaison Francie Chan led us through the key points of the Congregational Care cluster evaluation. The Companions program came to a halt and gracefully died. Helping Hands is not very active. The Beacons have stepped in to provide family assistance when needed. Recently, HART has functioned as advisor/safe feedback haven for the interim pastor.

3. Personnel: Outgoing chair Leslie Louie reported that David Siegenthaler and Anna Santos have been invited to join the Personnel Committee, with Francie serving as chair. Marge Nicholson, Leslie and Tracy Livezey will continue as non-session members, providing some overlap for several months.

Food Ministry Update: Susanne related that at the close of 2013, the discontinued Children's Food Basket fund had a balance of nearly \$4,000.

- **MSP to** release the Children's Food Basket funds to support ongoing food ministry programs, e.g., Fruitvale Food Pantry and feeding the homeless at various Oakland venues.

Appreciation for outgoing session members and staff: We said good-bye and gave much thanks to the remarkable outgoing session class: Rob Elia, Leslie Louie, Carrie McKiernan, Brant Nicholas and Bob Saltz. We also thanked Kathy Ray for her inspired leadership in moderating session and congregational meetings for the past six months. And finally, we expressed

our profound gratitude to Rev. Melinda McLain for the love, humor, TLC, energy and wisdom she poured out to our community during her brief sojourn here at MPC.

Staff Reports: Session received the attached staff reports.

Evaluation comments: Good meeting. Nice love fest for folks who are leaving, Leslie Louie: it was more fun being on session than I thought!

Brant Nicholas offered the closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Lea, Clerk of Session