

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

Elders Present: Lee Aurich, Amy Bess, Francie Chan, Sue Davies, Margaretha Derasary, Jean Gregory, Betsy King, Susanne Lea, Bill Neely, Sharon Noteboom

Elders Excused: Cynthia Cudaback, Karen Ray Gibson, Anna Santos, David Siegenthaler

Staff Present: Rev. Ben Daniel; Talitha Phillips

Others Present: Jim Allardice

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

Clerk's Report: Session will meet again on Tuesday, October 28, 2014. Presbytery meets Tuesday, November 11 at Trinity P.C., San Carlos. Susanne Lea encouraged session liaisons to routinely submit written reports that highlight pertinent information from committee meetings they have attended, using the liaison report format, or any similar format. The liaison-committee relationship is a two-way street. Session liaisons fulfill the key role of supporting their designated committees on behalf of session. Committees in turn bear responsibility for informing the session liaison what is happening at the committee level, and identifying committee needs. Our third calendaring session was successful; up-do-date calendars were available for session perusal. George Sommers' memorial service will take place on Saturday, Nov. 1. The adult education committee report was received into the minutes.

Liaisons agreed to the following reporting schedule:

1. Beacons/congregational care – October 28
 2. Social Justice – December 2
 3. Membership and Outreach – January, 2015
- **MSP** the minutes of the September 2 stated session meeting, with a minor spelling correction.

Celebration Committee: Jim Allardice reported that the August evening celebration/BBQ attendance increased 7.9 percent over 2013. People liked the food competition. New folks came; there were few complaints. The Celebration Committee has expanded to 12 people, with a new flower

person, greeter and lay leader coordinator. Invitations dramatically decreased in length following announcement of the new guidelines, but that lasted only two weeks: we are now back to business as usual with longer announcements. Several suggestions were made.

Average attendance at Celebration is 132 – the best since 2009, up 6.2 percent over last year.

Celebration is again considering two services on Christmas Eve.

More Light Update: Ben shared his thoughts on a possible next chapter for the More Light effort at MPC. The discussion in a recent meeting with Oakland pastors Debra Avery and Monte McClain turned to the fact that the City of Oakland has one of the highest concentrations of lesbian family households in the country. Yet, no church has been developed with lesbian families with children in mind. Possibilities for addressing this void include starting a fellowship with lesbian families, then shepherding them into the three churches, or growing a new church.

Harvest Dinner: Betsy King encouraged session members to attend Faith Trio's the upcoming Harvest Dinner.

Finance Committee Updates: Proposed lease terms to be discussed with Applegarden: \$3,000 month rent/ \$200 parking lot fee. Francie Chan announced that MPC received a \$2,000 donation for new refrigerators. We only need one, which will cost around \$3,000. The consensus was that we should go ahead and buy it.

Membership and Outreach: Bill Neely and Minda Lucera compiled a list of folks who could receive an encouraging call to return to active participation at MPC. Bill asked us to review the list and share any information that would be helpful as the M & O Committee continues to review the membership roster. See attached.

Buildings and Grounds: Susanne reported that the Saturday, October 4 church work day was a huge success. Ben noted that he has had conversations with the City about improving the sidewalks fronting MPC.

Central American Refugee Crisis: Ben updated session on the Ordonez Family. Their greatest need right now is for a bigger house. MPC and several other Presbyterian churches are involved with an East Bay

immigration group that aims to be public about giving sanctuary to those in need.

Path to Ordaining Talitha: The plan is to call Talitha Phillips as a designated pastor. Steps include putting together a five-member Associate Pastor Nominating Committee – Anna Santos, Marge Nicholson and Francie Chan have volunteered as nominees to date; updating our Ministry Information Form; preparing a job description and putting together the financial package. Nominating Committee will complete the process of recruiting nominees for the APNC.

- **MSP** to hold a congregational meeting on November 30 to approve the Nominating Committee slates for (1) the APNC and (2) Nominating Committee.

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

Closing Prayer by Ben at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Lea
Clerk of Session