

**STATED SESSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 13, 2014 7 PM in the Thornhill Room**

**Elders Present:** Lee Aurich, Amy Bess, Cynthia Cudaback, Margaretha Derasary, Karen Ray Gibson, Jean Gregory, Betsy King, Bill Neely, Sharon Noteboom, Anna Santos

**Elders Excused:** Francie Chan, David Siegenthaler Sue Davies, Susanne Lea

**Staff Present:** Rev. Ben Daniel; Talitha Phillips

**Others Present:** Hal Davis, Sari Kulberg, Art Paull, Al Peters

Rev. Ben Daniel called the meeting to order at 7:00. Margaretha Derasary offered the opening prayer.

**Clerk's Report:**

- **MSP** to elect Margaretha Derasary as pro tem clerk of session.

Presbytery meets again on Tuesday, June 3, 2014, the same day as the next regularly scheduled session meeting. The session meeting will be held as scheduled.

- **MSP** the minutes of the April 8, 2014 stated session meeting.

The baptism of Mira Thompson on Sunday, May 4, 2014 is entered into the minutes. It had been approved by session by email vote.

The Adult Education Report was received.

Talitha took orders for three Presbytery calendars.

**New Business: Hunger Action Working Group.** Janet Mulshine reported on the background and current activities of the group and proposed that the working group become a member of the Social Justice Steering Committee. This was agreed upon by session. The work is a great opportunity for beacon groups, the youth group, friends and family members to get to know each other while working for and with the community. The issue of funding will be discussed at overall budget time.

**Finance Committee:** Session received the quarterly financial statements. Al Peters reported that we are in the black. This is due to Ben starting in March rather than in January.

**Splash Committee:** Al Peters, Art Paull, Sari Kulberg and Hal Davis introduced a proposal for solar panels for the church, that grew out of our global vision statement: concern for the environment, awareness of climate change, and the need for renewable energy. Out of four companies that could do the work,

Solar Technologies is the best overall. It is solvent and likely to be around for a long time. The cost to the church would be \$71, 538 to be paid from a \$40,000 gift and from \$31,000 in loans which are already secured from members. The church would save \$9,000 to \$10,000 a year and the fund can be replenished over time. The panels would be guaranteed to retain 87% power after 25 years. Maintenance would become the responsibility of the church after 5 years, but should be less than \$1000 a year according to AI. It is not necessary to replace the roof at this time. The panels would be placed on the Family/Thornhill Room.

- **MSP** to approve the proposal of SPLASH to contract with Solar Technologies for \$71,538 under the above terms, and to bring it to the congregation for ratification.
- **MSP** to convene a congregational meeting on Memorial Day Sunday, May 24, to ratify the SPLASH solar proposal.

**Celebration Committee:** Jean Gregory introduced the revised proposal re: invitations and explained that it would be useful in planning celebration to know the number and length of invitations. Session agreed that in general invitations should be cleared by the office and limited to five max. per Sunday. They should be written up in Contact and the Bulletin. Invitations during celebration would still be needed, not only for those who did not read them, but also for that personal touch. They could be much shorter, no longer needing the details. Ben was given some leeway for last minute additions. Session found the written proposal too harsh and Jean offered to reword it with kindness, beauty and soul.

**Presbytery Report:** Jean Gregory reported that the national average of Presbyterian congregation membership is 89, while in the SF Presbytery it is 260. When Menlo Park leaves the average will drop.

**Plant Sale Report:** Amy Bess reported on a very successful plant sale that brought in people from outside. There would have been room for more people and more plants. Amy is willing to chair it again if we want to make it an annual event and if she would have more help. Session decided that annual would be better than bi-annual to keep momentum. Jean Gregory will take it to the SPLASH committee to see if that committee will support Amy. Amy should also work with Carrie McKiernan as it is a fundraising activity.

**Committee Fair:** Talitha asked everyone to arrange for a table with Sherrill and Susanne. She suggested games or other activities to entice people. She requested to limit food and candy as the youth will be cooking that day as a fundraiser for their trip to Memphis.

- MSP to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

**Brochure:** Talitha and Bill Neely made a great list of ways to get involved at MPC. The list brought up two concerns: 1. Whom to call when you do not know people. Bill then offered to have his phone number listed. 2. Who would keep it up to date...

It was decided to continue the discussion at a future meeting.

**Talitha's Report:** Talitha brought her report and record keeping guidelines for major event committees. Unfortunately Anna Santos cannot come to Memphis. She helped to arrange the trip. Family Life is getting organized and will keep records of major events for future reference.

**Pastor's Report:** Ben had two questions which due to lack of time remained unanswered.

-We do need coordination for memorial services: reception, greeters, etc. How do we do this? Quick suggestions: The Beacons might be called on. Shelly Kelly might be able to give guidelines.

-There are many theologians in MPC, should someone organize a "council of theologians"?

**Evaluation:** Two thumbs up for all the hard work.

**Closing Prayer by Ben.**

Respectfully submitted,

Margaretha Derasary  
Pro Tem Clerk of Session

