

MINUTES
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STATED MEETING OF SESSION
January 16, 2022

The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by Pastor Ashley Love at 12:12pm. A quorum was declared.

Roll	Bill Alessio Kim Roider Cheryl Hunt Moderator: Rev. Ashley Love Clerk: Janet Sepiol Guest: Suzi Treganza, Office Manager	Gretchen Loudon Wilfred Tamon	Craig Holmes Carol Dietrich	Sylvia Cavanaugh Gail Herron (ex.)
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Pastor Ashley led us in a devotional, using a Japanese cup, Kintsugi, a work of art made by joining together broken pieces with resin mixed with gold. Thus does God put us back together when we're broken. After this tough time, even if we can't go back, God fills the cracks and gives us hope!

The Meeting Agenda was approved.

Consent Items were approved.

- That Janet Sepiol be appointed Clerk of Session for 2022
- That Douglas Hunt, Craig Holmes, Carol Dietrich, Janet Sepiol, and Kim Roider be named as designated signers for the FPC checking account at Bank of the West

Clerk's Report:

- The Minutes of the December 8, 2021 Stated Meeting were approved
- The Minutes of the November 21, 2021 Congregational Meeting were approved
- The 2021 PCUSA Statistical Report was approved
- Commissioners for February 12th Presbytery Meeting via Zoom were selected. They will be Cheryl Hunt and Sylvia Cavanaugh
- Correspondence from Presbytery: There will be a virtual gathering March 5 to discuss the present and the future of the church. There was also a letter setting the new salary minimums for pastors.

Pastor's Report

- Deacon's List of Duties – Shortly after Pastor Ashley came, because the Deacons had just been dissolved, their duties were allocated to other groups, and a listing made of those assignments. We discussed those allocations, and a few changes were noted, namely that Restore/Gravity is no longer in charge of the food pantry and that Carol is not in charge of the ushers. We'll discuss the list more at Session Training. In addition, Gretchen and Worship & Music will look into adding greeters and possibly welcoming signage.
- Session Training was set for Saturday, February 26, at 9 am. Everyone should look at their committee's description in the Session Manual. Is it accurate? Are changes needed? We would also like to have a full tour of our church building. Mainly, this will be an opportunity to make sure we're all on the same page.

- Covenant Network - Our Saturday meeting in December with Rev. Brian Ellison to learn about LGBTQ welcome and inclusion was informational and well-received. Pastor Ashley suggested the next step would be a gathering after church. There are many steps we can take, but the whole congregation needs to understand and be part of any decision made. We shouldn't say we welcome LGBTQ if we really don't. There are many different aspects to be discussed. We might incorporate videos from different parts of Rev. Ellison's presentation. It was **MSP** that Pastor Ashley plan a meeting after worship, probably in February, with the larger congregation as a follow up to the Covenant Network meeting.
- Vaccine Clinic - We have been approached by a state organization, "Vaccinate All 58," to hold a vaccine clinic run by the state. It was **MSP** to investigate and arrange doing additional vaccine clinics.

Discussion Items:

- Selection of Corporate Officers - It was **MSP** that the following be the corporate officers for 2022: President - Carol Dietrich, VP - Kim Roider, Secretary - Janet Sepiol, Treasurer - Doug Hunt

Committee Reports:

Christian Education – Kim reported:

- Maggie and Charlie Luber started their first Sunday
- School class today! They will be planning a class twice a month.
- The Acts Bible Study will begin again this Tuesday, January 18, at 7PM via Zoom.
- Our Lenten Study will be announced soon. Pastor Ashley will be preaching a series based on *Lent*
- *in Plain Sight* by Jill Duffield. There is a devotional that goes with that book that we might utilize or John Vaughn might like to lead a Lenten study.

Congregational Care – Sylvia reported:

- She and her committee have made many phone calls and sent many cards.
- Marj Wall has been moved to another floor, and finally has her phone back again.
- Ruth Strombom continues to be unable to walk but is receiving physical therapy.
- Frances Mendez-McPherson's sister died this week, and Frances is still at Lincoln Square.

Fellowship – Carol reported that shifting rules on COVID make planning difficult, and there have been questions as to whether we should be having coffee hour right now. It was **MSP** to suspend in-person coffee hour after church until Session reauthorizes it.

Finance, Buildings and Grounds – Carol reported proposed motions from FB&G:

- The church checking account is low, partly due to \$11,000 recently sent to Presbytery (our obligation, usually sent throughout the year but kept here because with their reorganization, there was no place to send it). It was **MSP** to request \$30,000 from S&E.
- Regarding the budget, currently, Fellowship expenses 507 has 2 sub accounts. It was **MSP** to eliminate 507.02 and 507.05 and condense them all into Fellowship expenses 507. Also, currently Congregational Care has a holding fund for emergency care (replenished from the Mission Committee's Deacon's Fund). They also have a line item 504, meant for expenses such as birthday cakes, etc. It was **MSP** to eliminate line item

504 and move that \$150 to Fellowship expenses 507, making a total of \$450 for Fellowship expenses 507. Carol and Sylvia will coordinate.

- The revised Budget (new Terms of Call) was presented. It was **MSP** to approve the Preliminary Budget, as amended.

Mission – Cheryl reported:

- Since we have mission projects and mission partners and visitors right on our campus, the committee decided to transfer last year's unspent local mission money to the Welcoming All Safely in 2022 holding fund (207.26), to be used for expenses of making our buildings and grounds safe and welcoming.
- Due to the violent events in Cameroon and the need for the extended family of the Tamons to escape that, the committee directed \$500 from the Deacon's Fund to the Tamon family.
- The Mission Committee, along with many other groups, would like to work toward planning a Guns to Gardens event. These events help provide healing for the family and friends of victims of gun violence and provide a place to turn unwanted guns into garden tools. There are many resources available, and there will be a national event in June. It was **MSP** that, on the recommendation of the Mission committee, Session partner with other churches and non-profits in our community to endorse a Guns to Gardens event.
- Mission will be sending \$10,000 to the Presbytery of Urabá in Colombia for projects including humanitarian aid, youth mentoring programs, and construction of safe housing. \$3,000 of this donation comes from a grant from the NCC Presbytery Mission Support Committee. The Presbytery of Urabá leadership has been working hard, but is also working on the end-of-year forms we need describing how the money sent them this last year has been spent.

Nominating – Wilfred thanked his 2021 committee and Pastor Ashley for their help and looks forward to working with his 2022 committee.

Personnel – Bill presented Pastor Ashley's Terms of Call for 2022.

Stewardship – no report

Support and Endowment – Craig was able to get final information needed for the annual report. He will soon be able to produce our annual burn notice.

Worship and Music – Gretchen reported they are looking for subs for Earl.

Thanks to Pastor Ashley for the delicious lunch today. Sylvia volunteered to bring it next month.

Dates to remember:

January 17th

January 30th

February 12th

February 21st

Office Closed – Martin Luther King, Jr., Observance

Congregational Meeting following Worship

Presbytery Meeting

Office Closed – observance of President's Day

Next Stated Meeting: February 20 after church - needs to end by 2pm

Gretchen closed the meeting in prayer at 2:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Sepiol
Clerk of Session