

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING
November 10, 2021 via Zoom**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm by Pastor Ashley and opened with prayer.

Present:	Gretchen Louden	Craig Holmes	Sylvia Cavanaugh
	Kim Roider	Carol Dietrich	Gail Herron
Excused:	Bill Alessio	Wilfred Tamon	Katherine White
Moderator	Rev. Ashley Love		
Guest:	Suzi Treganza, Office Manager		

Pastor Ashley offered a Devotional that centered on a grounding exercise.

On motion by Pastor Ashley, seconded by Craig Holmes, it was unanimously approved that Suzi Treganza be Acting Secretary for this meeting.

Clerk's Report

- In Kathy White's absence, the Clerk's Report was presented by Pastor Ashley. **On motion by Kim Roider, seconded by Sylvia Cavanaugh, the Minutes of the October 13, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved.**
- There was discussion to have an email vote to approve the Minutes in order to allow them to be posted in Westminster Hall for the congregation to review. The email vote can be confirmed at the next Session meeting. **On motion by Craig Holmes, seconded by Gail Herron, it was unanimously approved to have Session Minutes reviewed and approved by email as soon as they are ready in order for them to be posted earlier.**

Pastor's Report

- There will be a book discussion led by Pastor Ashley this Sunday following worship. The book is *Thou Shalt Not be a Jerk*.
- Pastor Ashley is attending a Town Hall Meeting hosted by Faith in the Valley with Mayor Lincoln on November 15th. It is to discuss the CALL Stockton Initiative, which provides an alternative to police for non-violent 9-1-1 calls.
- Kelly Coffey, who has been our Nursery Attendant, has advised Personnel Committee that she does not plan to be vaccinated for COVID-19. Per our COVID-19 Policy, this would disqualify her to serve as Nursery Attendant. There will be change in her status to part-time custodial support, 3 hours a week (generally on Wednesday). Pastor Ashley is working with Suzi and Vic to develop a job description and schedule of duties. Once this is completed, the Personnel Committee will meet with Kelly.
- Rev. Brian Ellison of Covenant Network will be at First Pres on Saturday, December 11th. After discussion, it was decided he should be here from 11am-2pm and include a lunch break to allow for small discussion groups in a relaxed setting. Brian is an ordained pastor in PC(USA) and this meeting would not be about shaming congregations or being

judgmental in their handling of issues surrounding the LGBTQ community. Pastor Ashley suggested some topics for discussion: history of LGBTQ issues in our denomination; theological understanding of how this is approached in Scripture; practical steps for becoming a more welcoming and open congregation; questions and answers. Pastor Ashley will email videos from YouTube of Brian Ellison's sermons. He has not asked to be reimbursed, but Pastor Ashley would like to pay him. This honorarium could be from the Telle-Vaughn Fund or from Christian Education.

Discussion Items

- Commissioners for the November 13th Presbytery Meeting: 9am on Zoom. **On motion by Craig Holmes, seconded by Gretchen Loudon, it was unanimously approved that Gail Herron be elected a Commission for the upcoming Presbytery Meeting.** Sylvia Cavanaugh is going to check her schedule and if she can attend, an email vote for approval will be called.
- Election of a Clerk for November 21st Congregational Meeting and Discussion of Clerk's Duties: Pastor Ashley advised that the Clerk of Session does not need to be a current member of Session. After discussion, Gail Herron agreed to serve as Interim Clerk until the end of the year, including taking the Minutes at the upcoming Congregational Meeting and other duties as needed. **On motion by Craig Holmes, seconded by Gretchen Loudon, Gail Herron was unanimously approved as Interim Clerk through December 31, 2021.**
- Food service at FPC: Pastor Ashley noted that we are not being consistent with our COVID food policy. Presbyterian Women are meeting in person and serving lunch; Presbyterian Women's Bible Study is meeting in person with members bringing lunch from home. Since Session voted to suspend food service, Session needs to determine what the policy will be going forward. There are upcoming events when food service would be appropriate: Sunday's book discussion; Covenant Network meeting; Christmas Eve Soup Supper. A general rule for all committees should be in place. **On motion by Pastor Ashley, seconded by Craig Holmes, it was decided to permit service of food and beverages at church events with social distancing and people wearing masks while near common food. This would be in place effective immediately.** There was further discussion on what would need to be done to put this in place (i.e., food servers vs. self serve, etc.) Craig Holmes requested that the Session have feedback on how this worked presented at the December Session meeting.
- Date for Annual Meeting: **On motion by Craig Holmes, seconded by Sylvia Cavanaugh, and unanimously approved, the date for the Annual Meeting was set for Sunday, January 30, 2022.**
- Date for Annual Reports: Committee Chair reports will be due to Suzi on January 10, 2022.

Committee Reports

Christian Education: Kim Roider reported that we are waiting for Maggie and Charlie Luber to be fingerprinted. Their background check has been completed. Once that has been completed, they can begin working with the children in our Sunday School. There will be a meeting prior to that to discuss curriculum.

Congregational Care:

- Sylvia Cavanaugh reports that there are a lot of people who need calls, cards, etc. There are addresses in her report.
- There is a Congregational Care Holding Fund with a little over \$1,000 in it. There is a member who was robbed recently and in need of rent money. After checking with the donor, it was agreed to give that money to the member's rental company. Pastor Ashley will deliver it.
- November 22nd is Marj Wall's 100th birthday party at Plymouth Square.
- Kathy White can have visitors. It must be appointment with Lincoln Square. She can have 1 person per day for a 30 minute visit.

Fellowship: No report.

Finance, Buildings & Grounds: Carol Dietrich reported.

- Fixing the outside lights is in process.
- There is still a water bill issue regarding the gym's meter.
- Stained glass repairs are completed.
- The Budget for 2022 is in process. A preliminary budget will be reviewed at the December Session meeting.
- Craig Holmes noted that the deficit shown on the September financial reports (\$4,800) is somewhat misleading in view of the fact that S&E has provided \$40,000 so far to cover our deficit, see 401.02 (p12) and \$6,588, in reimbursements to the church see (401.04) (p.12). These infusions create the illusion of a smaller deficit, when, in actuality our deficit is \$50,000+.
- Craig Holmes reported that as a result of cleaning the locked pantry, we have found quite a bit of sterling silver. We will get an estimate and, after investigation into the provenance, sell it.

Mission: In Kathy White's absence, Pastor Ashley gave this report.

- Zonnie Thompson from Faith in the Valley was at the last Mission Committee meeting. He talked about housing opportunities in Stockton.
- Little Free Library will be rebuilt as an Eagle Project for a Scout in Earl Roider's Troop.
- Further action related to the Disarming Congregation issue is on hold.
- Helen Mar and Pastor Ashley visited the Day Center for Family Promise, which is located at Zion Lutheran Church. They hope to have families at sites beginning March 2022.

Once that gets closer, there will be a re-introduction of the program to the congregation.

- The process of documenting funds being sent to Colombia is underway. There was concern expressed regarding the accuracy and transparency of the reporting (through Mission Committee Minutes) regarding the specifics of the intended purpose and designated amounts for various projects. It was discussed that Session has a fiduciary duty to know how this money is being used once it is sent to Colombia and a reporting mechanism must be in place. Pastor Ashley gave a refresher on how the fund is used and reported that the policy approved by Session is in place. The question arose whether end of year reporting will include the entire year or only once the new policy was put into effect. Pastor Ashley will ask and report back.
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Nominating: In Wilfred Tamon's absence, Pastor Ashley gave this report.

The persons nominated for 2022 are:

Mara Duffy and Charlie Briggs – Nominating Committee
Cheryl Hunt – Session Member (replacing Kathy White)
S&E Congregational representative is being reviewed.

Stewardship: Gail Herron reported that she will have specific numbers at the December Session meeting.

Support & Endowment: Craig Holmes noted that they had not yet received the 3rd Quarter Reports and that there were reimbursement requests to be received.

Worship & Music: Gretchen Loudon reported.

- Christmas Eve Service will be at 7pm. Reality's service will be at 4pm.
- Joys & Concerns will return to the service. It will take place after the end of the service and the YouTube recording will be stopped for confidentiality purposes.
- Online Coffee Hour will continue even with the return of in person fellowship following worship.
- Saturday, November 27th, from 10am-Noon, the Sanctuary will be decorated for Advent. Reality will join us.
- There will be a Zoom Christmas Pageant again this year. December 19th, 5pm.

Other Business: Pastor Ashley would like to host a dinner for Session members and their significant others. Suzi will send an email to Session asking if everyone would be available on Friday, December 17th. The dinner will be held at FPC. Time to be determined.

Next Stated Meeting will be December 8th, 6:30pm, via Zoom.

Suzi Treganza was excused from the meeting.

Personnel: In Bill Alessio's absence, Pastor Ashley reported. Confidential personnel matters were discussed. Raises were approved for Victor Naranjo, Ethan Albala, and John Vaughn.

There being no further business to come before the Session, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted, Suzi Treganza, Acting Secretary