

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION MEETING – OCTOBER 13, 2021
MINUTES**

The meeting (held via Zoom) was called to order at 6:40pm by Pastor Ashley, who offered an opening prayer.

Attending: Gretchen Louden Craig Holmes Sylvia Cavanaugh
 Wilfred Tamon Carol Dietrich Gail Herron
Moderator: Rev. Ashley Love
Guest: Suzi Treganza, Office Manager

Excused: Bill Alessio Kim Roider Katherine White

Devotional: Pastor Ashley read Matthew 11:28-30 as a Lecto Divina.

Pastor Ashley advised Session that our Clerk, Kathrine White, was hospitalized and unable to attend tonight's meeting. By consensus, it was approved that Suzi Treganza act as Secretary for the meeting and take the Minutes.

Clerk's Report – In Kathy's absence, Pastor Ashley presented the Clerk's Report.

- The amended August Minutes were discussed and there was one final change: "The committee has developed a letter and form to be sent to out of country Mission Partners asking them to document use of monies sent and return the form ~~within a year~~ at the end of the calendar year." The Minutes will be changed to reflect this. **Second by Craig Holmes, Minutes approved as amended.**
- The Minutes of the September 8th Stated Meeting: **Second by Craig Holmes, Minutes approved.**
- Pastor Ashley advised the Session that Kathy will be stepping down as Stated Clerk of our Session and is not seeking a second term as an Elder. A new Stated Clerk will be voted on at the January 2022 Session meeting.

Pastor's Report

- There was a survey from Presbytery this summer about safety and security at churches. As a result, a Safety & Security Team training has been scheduled by the Presbytery on Saturday, October 16th, at 9:30am. Pastor Ashley is attending and invited members of Session to also attend.
- There will be a General Assembly next Summer – June 18-July 9, 2022. It will be in Louisville and will be a hybrid of online and in-person sessions. Pastor Ashley wasn't sure how this would be handled. They are looking for Commissioners to attend. An equal number of Teaching Elders (Pastors) and Ruling Elders (Session members) attend. The Presbytery will elect Commissioners based on the nominations received.

- Last week (Monday-Wednesday) Pastor Ashley attended a Renewal Retreat at Zephyr Point, Lake Tahoe, with other Pastors from our Presbytery. Friday she returned to Zephyr for a gospel Equity Inclusion Initiative Task Force meeting. It was attended by the Ethnic Concerns Consultation which supports and brings different congregations together. They have a large percentage of churches of a particular ethnic background (like Trinity Pres here).
- Working with Melissa Tidwell, the Pastor at Trinity Pres, we will have a joint event centered around telling stories around our COVID-19 experiences.
- Pastor Ashley has been in touch with Brian Ellison of Covenant Network. He is coming to the Bay Area to preach in mid-December. FPC will host a gathering on Saturday, December 11th, for his presentation. Lunch will be served. We will make this a public event inviting other churches in our area as well as contacting the Pride Center.
- Reality Church is going well. We have clear communication with them.
- There is a Vaccination Clinic at FPC this Sunday from Noon-4. We have publicized it with flyers to local churches as well as through the food pantry.
- Pastor Ashley met with our Nursery Attendant Kelly Coffey today regarding the church's Vaccine Policy. She will be out of town for the next week and they will meet again when she returns. She was offered to transition to a custodial capacity if she chooses not to be vaccinated. All Other staff will receive the COVID Policy this week as well.

Committee Reports

Christian Education – see written report in Session Packet.

Congregational Care – Sylvia reported that she is still calling people. There will be discussion with Pastor Ashley regarding Home Communion. There will be a birthday party for Marj Wall on November 22nd at Plymouth Square to celebrate her 100th birthday.

Fellowship – Carol reported we are still unable to gather for Coffee Hour at the church and, therefore, there was nothing to report.

Finance, Buildings & Grounds – Carol reported:

1. Repair of the stained glass windows will begin on October 18th.
2. There is a leak in the Sanctuary and our roofers will be here next week with a lift to repair it.
3. There was a discussion about lighting around the church campus. Doug will be working with an electrician on this project.
4. Reality has requested permission to paint the 3 upstairs offices that they occupy. That request was approved. They also requested to paint the downstairs Nursery. This will be discussed with their Office Manager, Joesy Castro, prior to approval.
5. Work on the 2022 Budget continues.

6. Approval was given to Reality Church using a 6' immersion tub for baptisms in the Sanctuary.

Mission – In Kathy's absence, Pastor Ashley reported:

1. A transfer of the balance of the Restore Scholarship Fund to Local Mission Fund was approved.
2. Per the Session's request, the "Clean Water for Colombia Fund" will be renamed "Colombia Partnership."
3. The food pantry is up and running. We have taken it over from Restore. Tola Eley and Pastor Ashley are sourcing food – they visited H.I.S. Raft and met John and his mother to discuss working with them. Christian from Reality Church volunteered today and he will ask his Elders to also come and help. Suzi went to Save Mart, Quail Lakes, and was able to get day old pastries as well as learn that if she brings in letterhead, they will give her a \$50 gift card to shop for other items. Craig suggested we contact the Department of Agriculture for surplus food. Tola and Pastor Ashley are hoping to meet with the Emergency Food Bank next week (another possible partner for food). Sylvia will check with the Raley's on Morada for donations.
4. Restore has been informed that we will not be using the box truck and they will sell it.
5. Craig raised a concern that our financial reports show no activities for the Clean Water for Colombia fund. Session should be receiving monthly reports showing income and disbursements as a large amount of money passes through this fund. Suzi will work with Craig and Cindy to create a report.
6. Last Sunday there was a gathering to discuss the possibility of FPC becoming a "Disarming Congregation." This is defined as: A Disarming Congregation seeks to rethink our relationship to violence, to heal the trauma caused by a gun (for example, suicide or accidental death), and prevent deaths caused by unloaded, unwanted guns (for example, inherited or gifted guns) by turning them into something useful like garden tools or art objects.
7. We would support or host events for the disarming of guns that are not wanted. Doug and Cheryl Hunt gave the presentation. The motion from Mission Committee: Session to consider FPC becoming a "disarming congregation." There was discussion about the name with many feeling uncomfortable about "disarming". It was felt that it sounded like we were taking away guns. Good idea, bad label. The motion was tabled for further discussion and decision when more Session members are present. Pastor Ashley will let the Mission Committee know Session's feedback.
8. Funding for a new Little Free Library was approved.

Nominating – Wilfred advised that with the exception of Kathy's position, the Nominating Committee's work is done. There will be more details at next month's Session meeting.

[Wilfred left the meeting following his report.]

Personnel – No report.

Stewardship – Gail reported:

- 19 pledge cards returned as of this date
- 8 pledge increases
- 2 new pledges
- \$92,000 (rounded) pledged

Last year we had a total of 33 pledges. There will be a dedication of the pledge cards at the October 31st worship service.

Support & Endowment – Craig reported:

- They are still waiting for the 3d Quarter Reports from Cindy.
- The actionable item is the amendment to the Support & Endowment Plan. The Plan must first be approved by Session and then at the November Congregational meeting.

There are two changes:

1. Elimination of the need to amend the Plan every 5 years to allow S&E funds to be used for day to day operations of the church since it's been clear for several years that FPC will need S&E to cover deficits indefinitely into the future..
2. Any donation received that is not otherwise designated shall be placed in the Support fund rather than an endowment.

The motion was approved.

Worship & Music – Gretchen reported that the new sound board has been installed and Earl Roider is pleased. Craig reminded Gretchen that Support & Endowment will reimburse the cost of the sound board.

Gretchen closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm

Respectfully submitted,

Suzi Treganza
Acting Secretary of Session