

First Presbyterian Church
Session Minutes
May 21, 2018

A Quorum was present: Meg Knight, Jenny Killian, Sue Pangie, Maureen O'Conner, Peter Wilson by speaker phone until 7:18 when he arrived, Eve Kenyon, Marty Davis. Absent: Jeanise Richards Pastor Scott DeBlock, Moderator.

The meeting, held in the church parlor, was opened at 6:39 pm with prayer and called to order. The minutes of the April 16, 2018 Session meeting were approved and the agenda was accepted.

The Standing Reports received via the Consent Agenda were approved and are as follows:

Clerk's Report

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated: May 6, May 20

Special Services/Activities: Mother's Day, Pentecost

Communications: none

Baptisms, funerals, deaths: Baptism of Lindsey Marie Carter, April 22

Church Calendar Review: Village Ecumenical worship service here on July 8

Village Garage Sale, June 9-10-Christian Ed Team is participating

Team Reports

Personnel (Jenny Killian, chair)- minutes from April 22

Love In Action/Mission (Meg Knight, liaison)- no report

Christian Education Team (Tom Carter, chair, Sue Pangie, liaison)- no report

Stewardship & Finance Team (Debbie Seifert, chair; Eve Kenyon, liaison)- financial reports ending 4/30 and minutes from May 7

Buildings and Grounds Team (Sue Getsch, chair; Peter Wilson, liaison)- no report

Worship (Eve Kenyon, liaison)- minutes from May 10

Deacons (Ken Killian, chair; Marty Davis, liaison)- minutes from April 15

Pastor's Report -attached

Housekeeping Items

Next Presbytery meeting: Tuesday June 5, 6:30-9:00 Rensselaerville Presbyterian Church

Next Session meetings: June 18 6:30 pm at church and August 20 (**corrected date**) 6:30 pm picnic and meeting at Scott and Heidi DeBlock's home

New Business

Commissioned Elder student support- Tom Carter is enrolled with the Presbytery Leadership Development Committee, to take online courses through Dubuque Theological Seminary. Scott asked that our church assist with his tuition costs- paying 1/3. Presbytery is offering to pay 1/3 and Tom will pay 1/3. The classes are about \$400 each and he needs to take 6. *A motion was made to assist Tom Carter with his tuition cost, the church paying 1/3 of the total cost, and passed.*

Bank signature card resolution- *a motion was made to submit a Corporate Resolution to BSNB to remove and add new signatories, and passed.*

(The following names need to be removed from accounts:

General Checking 8205: Barbara Connor and Chuck Seifert

Capital Improvement 9275: Barbara Connor and Chuck Seifert

Deacons Fund 5871: Ken Killian and David Bennett

Special Gifts/ Memorial 2896: Rich Myers, Charles Seifert & Barbara Connor

Peter Martin needs to be added to Special Gifts/ Memorial 2896.

Once the action is completed at the bank, those with signature ability will be:

General Checking 8205: Judy Toelle & Peter Martin

Capital Improvement 9275: Judy Toelle & Peter Martin

Deacons Fund 5871: Rebecca Higley & Judy Toelle

Special Gifts/ Memorial 2896: Judy Toelle & Peter Martin

BACA: Sue Getsch & Judy Toelle)

Currently there is no limit on the dollar amount of a check that one person can sign. Finance Team will address this.

Old Business

Scott's 12-month review- Session reviewed the summary prepared by Personnel Team leader of their responses to the questionnaire and discussed the summary. Scott was presented with the summary, agreed with the stated weaknesses and strengths, and feels affirmed. Next review per his contract is October 2018.

Report from April 21 Presbytery meeting – The business meeting did not yield much to report. Marty and Meg shared some observations from the Bridges Out of Poverty training that followed.

Albany Presbytery statistical report concern- In response to Marty's concern, Scott shared an explanation from Dan Rogers of Presbytery about the intent of Presbytery's statistical report including race and ethnicity. The intent is to be purposefully more culturally diverse in our congregations, and be aware of the current diversity or lack thereof. Discussion followed.

Session Team MAPS- Scott sent an email to team leaders to request each team do a Mission Action Plan.

Innovation Grant Application- Scott shared that he was told there is a high probability of our request not being funded due to it not being innovative enough. Margaret Mitsuyasu of Synod of the Northeast suggested when that we have a new pastor, we reapply with a concrete innovative plan. For the church now, the concern is how to afford to hire a full-time pastor. Scott requested information from Presbytery on the history of our manse fund. With permission of Presbytery we might be able to use it towards the pastor's housing allowance. It appears that we are not using the interest from this fund towards operating costs, therefore reducing the principal would not impact our operating budget. Scott will ask Presbytery if we can use \$15,000/year for 2 years. Eve will take this idea to the PNC, which is concerned about how to afford a full-time pastor.

Mission and/or Vision Statement (group will be meeting to work on this on May 22)

TSL – TSL let us know that summer camp enrollment is currently lower than anticipated, and the after school program might not start until mid-school year, as the licensing process is taking longer than expected. This of course impacts anticipated income to the church. Scott is meeting with TSL on Wednesday.

Care and Communication Network Teams/Congregation Check-In- Scott will meet with Deacons at their June meeting.

2018 Nominating Committee completion – Still waiting for Deacon's representative- Scott will reach out to Team leader for that person and to remind them that Marty Davis has to be included in communications.

Clerk Position- Scott will be putting an appeal out to the congregation for a new stated clerk.

PNC update- PNC is working on the narrative questions of the MIF

Marty asked about pricing for new carpet in the East High Street stairwell, and about the railing outside the door to the lawn.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Jenny Killian, Clerk of Session

Elder on Call Schedule: May-Meg; June-Sue; July-Marty; August-Jeanise; September-Maureen; October-Eve; November- Peter; December- Jenny

Record of action taken by email vote prior to the May 21 meeting. In response to the following email from Scott, on April 30 Meg Knight made a motion to approve this expense (\$9,800) and authorize Scott to contact Hart to begin work. The motion passed.

"I need to move forward in contacting Hart alarm to begin work, but I really need Session to approve the action. If you remember, their bid (attached) is \$9800 for what we need, and Simplex was not simple, as it was \$56,000! Anyway, I will need a motion to move forward on the Hart bid and email vote before I move forward. Justina has informed me that there is about \$34,000 in checking right now, as surplus from 2017 is still there which would just about cover this expenditure. (We finished 2017 in the black by \$8,828.)