

First Presbyterian Church
Session Minutes
January 15, 2018

A Quorum was present: Meg Knight, Jenny Killian, Sue Pangie, Deb Seifert, and Eve Kenyon. Excused: Peter Wilson, Sue Getsch Guests: Maureen O'Connor, Jeanise Richards, and Marty Davis. Pastor Scott DeBlock, Moderator.

The meeting, held in the church parlor, was opened at 6:37 pm with prayer and called to order. *The minutes of December 15, 2017 Session meeting were approved.*

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: December 24 and January 7

Special Services/Activities: Longest Night Service, December 21; Christmas Eve Service, Christmas 24 ; Human Trafficking program, January 11, 2018 (50 people in attendance; great outreach for church)

Communications: Request from Presbytery for 2017 reports- Clerk will complete

Baptisms, funerals, deaths: none

Church Calendar Review:

Annual congregational meeting January 28

Leadership meeting Saturday, February 3, 9-12 noon at church to gather/organize/vision

Ordination and installation of officers February 4

Team Reports

Personnel (Jenny Killian, chair)- no report

Love In Action/Mission (Meg Knight, Liaison)- reports to come

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

Stewardship & Finance Team (Debbie Seifert, chair)- financial reports end 12/31

Buildings and Grounds Team (Sue Getsch, chair)- no report

Worship (Eve Kenyon, Liaison)- no report, meeting on Jan. 18.

Deacons (Ken Killian, chair; Sue Getsch, Liaison)- no report

Pastor's Report – see attached

Housekeeping Items

- Next Presbytery meeting- Saturday, February 10, 2018 9:30 am, at Hamilton Union, Guilderland- Meg will attend. We need to check with Sue Getsch as to whether she is going to continue to attend Presbytery meetings.
- Session meetings will be February 19 and March 19 at 6:30 pm

New Business

Communion Dates for 2018

A motion was made to celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in 2018 on the first and third Sundays of the month, Christmas Eve and at the Seder. Motion passed.

Facility Usage requests

A motion was made to approve the facility usage request for a birthday party on March 17 at the church. The motion was approved. There is a possible request for CAPTAIN to use the church on Thursdays, 10-12:30 pm for several months. Scott will gather the details and Session can review the request and vote by email. Deb and Scott met with Tom Styles from TSL- an after school and summer program for kids K- fifth grade. Scott was involved in TSL's usage of the Niskayuna Reformed Church. They want to use our facilities in summer 2018 then move into after school care in the fall. They liked us and are in favor of moving ahead. This would be a rental usage of our basement space, and the chapel. The income in the beginning might be based on enrollment, then move to a set rental agreement. The summer program doesn't have state requirements, but for the school year program, under Office of Family and Children Services licensing, the space needs a hardwired fire alarm system. Scott received an estimate for \$9,800 and is getting at least one more. We might want to look for grants for safety improvements of the building. TSL should have OFCS in to review the space for any additional improvements that need to be made in order for TSL to use our building. <http://www.tsladventures.net>

Old Business

Transition Team Report

The Transition Team was appointed by Session. Session is asked to accept their report and recommendations, then share it with the congregation. Session discussed the recommendations, their implications and how/if the background information brought about the recommendations. If we want to apply for the grant for innovation, that needs to be done soon, as the evaluation of grants takes place in Feb and May. A revision to the report was suggested: Worship team "lead an evaluation and assessment of every" and involve members in the evaluation. *A motion was made to approve the recommendations as revised.* Discussion followed. The church's budget doesn't allow for a lot of what we put in the recommendations. We do have a lot of potential. The new pastor will have a challenge ahead, will need to be entrepreneurial. The recommendations don't have a time line, but the idea is for the growth to start now, so the new pastor will come alongside our growth, not have to lead the start of growth. *Motion approved.* Scott will revise the report as approved recommended. It will be included in the 2017 Annual Report. *A motion was made to thank the Transition Team for their time and hard work evaluating our needs. Session acknowledges they are done with their charge. Motion passed.*

Annual Meeting

Reports are coming in from teams and organizations that use the church. The meeting was announced yesterday at worship and will be again for the next two weeks, and is in the This Week newsletter. Deacons are organizing the meal prior to the meeting.

Nominating Team Report

The team is building a slate for the PNC. Six members have accepted the invitation, and the team is waiting to hear from three others. Scott will assist with person who was invited to be on the PNC but isn't a member.

Susan Brewer has a prayer shawl she would like to donate. If anyone knows of a recipient, please let her or the church office know.

As they end their terms, Sue Getsch and Debbie Seifert were thanked for their many years of service to Session. You will be missed! Once an elder, always an elder- you have been called.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Jenny Killian, Clerk of Session

Elder on Call Schedule: January 2018 – Sue Pangie; February 2018 – Jenny; March- Peter

Reminder for future: In April, when Scott's contract is renewed, we have to approve the housing allowance.

PASTOR REPORT

WORSHIP

- Led worship December 24, Christmas Eve Candlelight, January 7 and 14
- Offered Communion on December 24, January 7
- Prepared and led Longest Night Service on Dec 21

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- Completed Book Review on *Simple Church* on December 3
- Meeting with BACA clergy to plan Lenten Series

PASTORAL CARE

- Check in phone calls
- Email communications with members

WIDER CHURCH AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- Attended Board meeting of Samaritan Counseling Center 010918
- Albany Presbytery Personnel Committee meeting here on 011018
- Led Human Trafficking Awareness Event 011118
- Dropped off donated Teddy Bears at City Mission 121917

ADMINISTRATIVE

- Met with Nominating Committee
- Met with representatives of TSL regarding possible use of facilities
- Met with Meg 010818 regarding Human Trafficking Awareness Day
- January/February Worship Planning
- Continued “office hours” of Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday
- Review and response to emails
- Met with Rev. Kathy Gorman-Coombs regarding future PNC 010818
- Meeting with Fire Alarm Companies regarding installation of new system

TRANSITION WORK

- Presented Transition Team report
- Shared report with Rev. Amaury Tanon-Santos of Synod of the Northeast and Rev. Tim Coombs of Albany Presbytery for their review

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ON THE HORIZON

- Need to complete staff evaluations
- Leading worship January 14, 28, Feb. 4, 11, 18
- Need pulpit supply for Feb 25
- January 28 Annual meeting preparation

SELF CARE

- Trip to England
- Vent Fitness at least three days per week
- Upcoming Presbytery Retreat Jan 29-30