

First Presbyterian Church
Session Minutes
November 20, 2017

A Quorum was present: Debbie Seifert, Meg Knight, Jenny Killian, Peter Wilson, Eve Kenyon. Excused: Sue Pangie, Sue Getsch Pastor Scott DeBlock, Moderator.

The meeting, held in the church parlor, was opened at 6:33 pm with prayer and called to order. *The minutes of October 16, 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: November 5 and 19

Special Services/Activities: Consecration Sunday, November 12

Communications: none

Baptisms, funerals, deaths: none

Church Calendar Review:

Hanging of the Greens, November 26

Simple Church Book Study, Sundays after worship in December

Village Christmas Cantata at First Baptist Church, Dec. 10, 5:00 hors d'oeuvres, 6:00 cantata

Longest Night Service, December 21 7 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, December 24, 7 pm

Annual congregational meeting, January 28, after worship service

Ordination and installation of officers, February 4

Leadership meeting Feb. 10 9-12 noon to gather/organize/vision (SEE BELOW FOR CHANGE)

Team Reports

Personnel (Jenny Killian, chair)- minutes 11/15/17

Love In Action/Mission (Meg Knight, Liaison)- minutes 10/29/17

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

Stewardship & Finance Team (Debbie Seifert, chair)- financial reports end 10/31 and minutes 11/6

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

Worship (Eve Kenyon, Liaison)- no report

Deacons (Ken Killian, chair; Sue Getsch, Liaison)- minutes 10/15/17

Pastor's Report

(Report printed below) Session thanked Scott for thorough and informative report. Scott reminded Session to keep an eye on pastoral self-care, both now and in the future with our new pastor.

Housekeeping Items

Next Presbytery meeting- Saturday, February 10, 2018 9:30 am, location TBD

Meg is interested in continuing to attend Presbytery meetings, as is Sue Getsch. Feb. 10 is the same date as our leadership meeting; Scott feels Presbytery meeting is important enough to move our leadership meeting. Scott will investigate Feb. 3 and get back to Session and other leaders.

Session meetings will be Dec. 18 and Jan. 15, 2018 at 6:30 pm (Current Session members still need to attend!)

Worship Team without a chair- Eve and Scott will work on this vacancy, once new leaders are in place in 2018.

New Business

New members

Session will meet with new member candidates after church on Dec. 3. Scott is aiming for Dec. 10 for the candidates to be received during worship.

Old Business

The Thanksgiving bags process was reviewed; Meg will take notes for next year.

Nominating Team Report

For information only, Eve shared the slate the Nominating Team will likely recommend for 2018. Session thanked Eve and the team for their hard work! The Nominating Team needs to recommend a pastoral nominating committee. Eve will start that process.

Senior Resource Fair Review

Over 50 people from outside of our church attended. One vendor offered to help next year. Thank you to Ken Killian and the Deacons for all of their work. The Clerk will write a note of thanks to the Deacons.

2018 Church Budget

Session reviewed the proposed budget from the Stewardship and Finance Team, and will vote on it at the December meeting. The roof repayment is budgeted for \$5,000/year for 5 years. The Mission budget is 10% of \$135,000 anticipated income. \$86,509 was received in pledges with another \$32,160 still anticipated. Pledges tend to be 80% of income, with remaining 20% weekly offerings. The team and Scott are looking into raising church revenue through building usage. We are anticipating a \$20,000 surplus for 2017, which would balance the deficit projected for 2018. The team and Scott are investigating an Innovation Grant from the Synod of the Northeast--- we could possibly get a grant for a full-time pastor, for renewal and revitalization. The team will refine the proposed budget and share any changes prior to our next Session meeting.

Transition Team Update

The team met last week to review feedback from the five Care and Communication meetings, and identified common themes/comments/concerns. They will write up recommendations as part of the transition team report. Their next meeting is Nov. 30. The informal goal is that the team's work be done by end of 2017 and a report prepared for the January session meeting.

Presbytery Meeting review

Meg and Scott attended the November 15 meeting. There was a presentation of the report of Synod on the dysfunction of Presbytery, which Presbytery accepted. The staffing committee of presbytery (SPAT) also reported and recommends that the Personnel team search for a temporary resource staff person; when that period is over, Presbytery would hire an Interim Presbyter. Trust and relationships are issues within Presbytery. Scott was named to the Personnel Committee and Meg was named to the Committee on Ministers and Congregations (COMAC). COMAC would like to use our parlor the third Thursday of each month going forward. Session approved this usage.

Scott will get in touch with Kathy Gorman-Coombs about her role as liaison to our search process going forward.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Jenny Killian, Clerk of Session

The next Session meetings will be December 18 and January 15 at 6:30 pm.

Elder on Call Schedule: April – Peter; May- Meg; June – Sue Pangie; July- Eve; August – Jenny; September- Sue Getsch; October- Peter; November – Deb; December – Meg; January 2018 – Sue Pangie; February 2018 – Jenny

PASTOR REPORT FOR 112017

WORSHIP

- Led worship October 22, 29, November 5, 12 (Consecration Sunday)
- Offered Communion on November 5

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- Offered 4 week New Members Class
- Upcoming Book Review on *Simple Church* in December

PASTORAL CARE

- Meetings (pastoral counseling) with 4 members
- Visited Joan Schwab
- Hospital visit of Donna Herrington
- Hospital visit of the Carters
- Hospital Visit of Sally Poltynski
- Check in phone calls
- First pre-marital counseling session with couple from previous church

WIDER CHURCH AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- Attended Board meeting of Samaritan Counseling Center
- Attended Clergy Group Retreat in New Jersey Oct 22-23
- Met with Albany Presbytery Transitional Pastors on Oct. 25
- Participated in Election Day BBQ
- Participated in Senior Resource Fair
- Attended Presbytery meetings of Nov 1 and Nov 15 (where I officially transferred my membership from the RCA to PC (USA))
- Hosted and participated in Albany Presbytery Boundary awareness training (8-4 on Nov.4)
- Attended first Albany Presbytery Personnel Committee meeting on Nov. 8

ADMINISTRATIVE

- Finance Committee meeting on Nov.6
- Worked with Justina on 2018 budget preparation
- Advent Worship Planning
- Continued “office hours” of Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday
- Review and response to emails

TRANSITION WORK

- Completed and facilitated 5 Care and Communication Network Meetings
- Compiled notes of this meetings
- Met with Transition Team on Nov 14.
- Beginning composition of Transition Team report

ON THE HORIZON

- Meeting with Rev. Amaury Tanon-Santos of Synod of the Northeast on Wed. Nov. 22 to discuss Innovation Grants
- Need to complete staff evaluations
- Will be leading worship all of Advent and Christmas Eve, Tom Carter preaching Dec. 31
- Participating in Cantata
- Will be traveling to England Dec. 27-Jan.5, leading worship January 7,21,28
- January 28 Annual meeting preparation
- Meeting with John Parker and Meg Knight to plan Human Trafficking Awareness event that we will host in conjunction with Albany Presbytery on Jan 11, 2018
- December 21 Longest Night Service
- Christmas Eve

SELF CARE

- Aforementioned clergy retreat
- Knee surgery rehab at Vent Fitness