

First Presbyterian Church
Session Minutes
December 18, 2017

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

The meeting, held in the church parlor, was opened at 6:40 pm with prayer and called to order. *The minutes of November 20 and December 3, 2017 Session meetings 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 3 and 17

Special Services/Activities:

Communications: request from Peter Friguletto to be removed from active membership; also letter from Albany Presbytery thanking church for hosting meeting Sept. 12.

Baptisms, funerals, deaths: none

Church Calendar Review:

Simple Church Book Study Sundays after worship in December

Longest Night Service, December 21 7 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service December 24

Human Trafficking Awareness Night, January 11 7-8:30 pm here

Annual congregational meeting January 28

Ordination and installation of officers February 4

Leadership meeting February 3 9-12 noon to gather/organize/vision; here

Team Reports

Personnel (Jenny Killian, chair)- no report

Love In Action/Mission (Meg Knight, Liaison)- no report (met but report delayed, meeting Dec. 31)

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

Stewardship & Finance Team (Debbie Seifert, chair)- financial reports end 11/30

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

Worship (Eve Kenyon, Liaison)- no report

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

Pastor's Report

Scott had a good conversation with Rev. Amaury Tanon-Santos of Synod of the Northeast on Wed. Nov. 22 to discuss Innovation Grants. Full Pastor's Report attached at end of minutes.

Housekeeping Items

Next Presbytery meeting- Saturday, February 10, 2018 9:30 am, at Hamilton Union, Guilderland
Session meetings will be January 15 and February 19, 2018 at 6:30 pm. Scott would like to invite the incoming Session nominees to come to the January meeting, as the transition team report will be presented at that meeting.

Peter Wilson agreed to be Elder of the Month in March 2018.

Akua Assamani met with Meg and Scott prior to Dec. 10 in preparation for joining the church. *A motion was made to accept Akua into membership. The motion was approved.*

New Business

Annual Meeting-January 28- Team leaders should submit reports to the church office by Jan. 14. The meeting needs to be announced during the service for two weeks in advance. The Pastoral Nominating

Committee will be voted upon at the Annual meeting. Our liaison from Presbytery Kathy Gorman-Coombs should be in attendance.

Correspondence action- Session discussed how the Friguletto family was “lost” during the church’s transition from pastor to interim pastor. Sue Pangie will write a letter expressing our regret and wishes for their family’s health and happiness going forward. *A motion was made to remove Peter Friguletto from active to inactive, per his request. The motion was approved.*

Old Business

Nominating Team Report- the team is meeting Jan. 7 to work on the Pastoral Nominating Committee 2018 Church Budget (second reading) - Concern was expressed about the low transition costs; most will be in 2019. Scott is meeting on Thursday with the director of TSL- full-day daycare for summer K-5 and after school care in school year. This is a possible rental opportunity for our church. We still anticipate a \$20,000 surplus from 2017. *A motion was made to approve budget recommended by Finance Committee. The motion was approved.*

Transition Team Update- The report was shared with Session, and will be discussed more fully at the January Session meeting. Session members should be sure to look at summary of meetings page 6, recommendations on page 8-9. Discussion took place about communicating with congregation what has been going on and what’s coming. Session has to study the report in preparation to accept the report and in doing so, endorse the report. The report will be incorporated into the Feb 3 event.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Jenny Killian, Clerk of Session

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; March 2018- Peter

PASTOR REPORT FOR 121817

WORSHIP

- Led worship December 3, 10, 17
- Offered Communion on December 3, 17
- Preparing for Longest Night Service on Dec 21

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- Began Book Review on *Simple Church* on December 3

PASTORAL CARE

- Check in phone calls
- Email communications with previous member
- Met with Ewu Chen

WIDER CHURCH AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- Attended Board meeting of Samaritan Counseling Center

- Albany Presbytery Personnel Staff Appreciation Lunch on Dec. 18
- Conducted graveside service for Armer funeral home on Dec 16

ADMINISTRATIVE

- Met with Mission Committee
- Met with Meg and John Parker regarding Human Trafficking Awareness Day
- Found Speaker for the Jan 11 meeting
- 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

- Met with Transition Team on Nov 30.
- Completed composition of Transition Team report
- Met with Rev. Amaury Tanon-Santos of Synod of the Northeast on Wed. Nov. 22 to discuss Innovation Grants

ON THE HORIZON

- Need to complete staff evaluations
- Will be leading worship all of Advent and Christmas Eve, Tom Carter preaching Dec. 31
- Will be traveling to England Dec. 27-Jan.5, leading worship January 7,21,28
- January 28 Annual meeting preparation
- December 21 Longest Night Service
- Christmas Eve

SELF CARE

- Day trip to NYC with Heidi
- 2 day visit to my daughter in Washington DC
- Knee surgery rehab at Vent Fitness