

First Presbyterian Church
Session Minutes
February 19, 2018

A Quorum was present: Meg Knight, Jenny Killian, Sue Pangie, Maureen O'Conner, Jeanise Richards, Peter Wilson, Eve Kenyon, Marty Davis. Pastor Scott DeBlock, Moderator.

The meeting, held in the church parlor, was opened at 6:34 pm with prayer and called to order. The minutes of January 15, 2018 Session meeting were approved.

2018 Elder on Call Resource Sheet was reviewed.

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: January 21, February 4 and 18

Special Services/Activities: Annual congregational meeting January 28

Leadership meeting February 3

Ordination and installation of officers February 4

Communications: "Church Report 2017" submitted to Presbytery; Session approved by email vote

Facility Usage Request from Saratoga Bridges; Session approved by email vote

Baptisms, funerals, deaths: none

Church Calendar Review:

Lenten Lunches beginning Feb 28 (March 21 our church is in charge of lunch and Scott will be speaking; tell Bev Davis if can help)

Lenten small groups start this week

Team Reports

Personnel (Jenny Killian, chair)- no report

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)- financial reports end 1/31/2018

Buildings and Grounds Team (Sue Getsch, chair)- met today, report to come

Worship (Eve Kenyon, Liaison)- minutes Jan 18, 2018

Deacons (Ken Killian, chair; Sue Getsch, Liaison)- met yesterday, report to come

Pastor's Report (attached)

Housekeeping Items

Annie Reilly at New England Congregational Presbyterian Church will cover for pastoral emergencies while Scott is on vacation this month.

Feb. 10, 2018 Presbytery meeting review: Sue Getsch submitted a report dated Feb. 12. The next meeting is April 21, 2018 from 10am-2pm at the Cambridge United Presbyterian Church and will be a training event on roots of poverty; registration required. See Albany Presbytery website for more info. Meg added that there was a report from COMAC at the meeting, asking for input on maternity/paternal leave.

Currently there is a policy for Presbytery staff, but COMAC wants to develop a policy for clergy for the 2019 terms of call. Meg will share the proposal with Session for our review.

Session meetings will be March 19 and April 16, 2018 at 6:30 pm

New Business

Commissioned Ruling Elder- Tom Carter has requested to become a Commissioned Ruling Elder (a ruling elder that is empowered to preach and administer sacraments). Action of Session is needed to commend him to the Presbytery Leadership Development Committee. There is training and mentoring involved and proof is needed that he is preaching and can interpret scripture. *A motion was made to support his request to become a Commissioned Ruling Elder, seconded, and passed.* Jenny will write a letter to Presbytery, relaying our support.

Deacons gathering for Albany Presbytery- Moderator Ken Killian suggested a meeting with other deacon groups, sharing ideas, best practices, mission activities, etc. Scott inquired and learned that this has not been done in the past. The Leadership Development Committee at Presbytery likes the idea. If our church will host the gathering, Presbytery will plan and run it.

Session Team assignments- Session reviewed the current grid of team leaders and liaisons. In addition, the position of Clerk of Session will be open. Scott requested Session members let him know where you would like to serve/continue/change. Scott will put together a job description for Clerk of Session.

Backstretch Program 2018- Scott met with an interest group organized by Karen Chavez. Our church, with Scott leading, will organize the program for this summer. Another paid staff person will likely be needed at the program.

Old Business

Transition Team Report-

Innovation Grant Application- Scott reported that it is in process. Maureen and Scott are working together to finish the report and be sure it relays in the right way that our request is innovative.

Vision Statement- Scott charged Session with looking at the mission/vision statement. Simple is best- perhaps we have one not both? Please come to the next meeting with thoughts or a draft; refer to the Transition Team report and Simple Church.

TSL usage request- Scott is meeting with them tomorrow about the summer, to negotiate a usage fee dependent on enrollment. One more bid coming for the fire alarm system installation. *A motion was made to allow TSL to use our facility for summer program, and to authorize Scott to negotiate for the summer and fall programs, seconded and approved.*

Eve reminded us to watch for those who are absent from church, and reach out to them.

Scott will put together the new Care and Communication Network Teams by the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Jenny Killian, Clerk of Session

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

Elder on Call Schedule: February- Jenny; March- Peter; April-Meg; May-Eve; June-Sue; July-Marty; August-Jeanise; September-Maureen