

# THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MADISON

Session Notes  
October 14, 2019

**PRESENT: Moderator:** The Rev. Scott Foster

**Ruling Elders:** Bob Baisch, Cheryl Bolton, Bill Bowen, Sara Burnet, Suzanne Flynn, Ryan Rate, Barbara Schuszler, and Becky Moody, Clerk

**Guests:** Patrick Allred, Director of Family Ministries; Hannah Faye Allred, Inquirer

**EXCUSED:** David DePaul, Brian Peterson

Rev. Foster called the meeting of Session to order at 7:02 PM.

There was a quorum present.

Patrick Allred led a devotional on Ephesians 3:1-6, followed by an opening prayer.

The docket was adopted.

Hannah Faye Allred has been an Inquirer on the path to ordination in the PC(USA) and requested a meeting with Session in order to move from Inquirer to Candidate status. Barbara Schuszler has been her Session liaison. Barbara had provided Hannah with questions from Session members, which she answered in great detail. Following this discussion period, a **Motion** was approved unanimously to recommend that Hannah move to Candidate status. Barbara will draft the letter of recommendation to the Committee on Preparation for Ministry. Hannah was excused from the meeting.

Becky Moody presented segments of “The Role of Ruling Elders on Session”, a Leader Reader by Steve Lytch.

**OMNIBUS MOTION** – Approved.

**Resolved**, Session approves the minutes of the Regular Session Meeting on September 9, 2019

**Resolved**, Session approves the minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting on October 6, 2019

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Strategic Planning:** Barbara Schuszler commented that the Ministry Information Form created in 2015 stressed that our focus was on “dechurched families”, but she wonders if that is still the best model for sustainable growth.

### **Life Transformation:**

- Cheryl Bolton had provided a written report on the efforts to select material for small group work on spiritual transformation.
- Patrick Allred had provided a written report on Family Ministry activities, including an upcoming Newton Presbytery middle school and high school student event in Whippany and plans for a church baking day and bake sale in November or December.
- Scott Foster had provided a written report from the Worship team, including details of organ and piano repair and maintenance costs. A **Motion** was approved to spend \$5,860 to replace two expression motors in the Sanctuary organ, which needs to be done as soon as possible.

### **Community Renewal:**

- Sara Burnet had provided a written report on Mission activities. The church will be adopting a family through the Madison Eagle Christmas Fund.
- Suzanne Flynn provided a verbal report. Greeters have been scheduled for the next twelve months, including a number of new volunteers; Cathy Baillie will be asked to enter them into Breeze.

**Finance and Stewardship:** Barbara Schuszler provided a verbal report. Teresa Lepore has not been able to enter payroll information into PowerChurch, so there are no updated financial statements available. Barbara is able to monitor both the Chase Bank checking account and the Merrill Lynch investment account and is keeping sufficient funds available. She expects the total 2019 endowment drawdown to be \$230-\$250K, which is less than had been anticipated.

**Properties:** A **Motion** was approved for Peaceworks to use the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 8. Building use rates will be updated.

**Clerk:** Communion was celebrated on Sunday, October 6, and Wednesday mornings September 11, September 18, September 25, October 2, and October 9. Change in congregational roll – death of Catherine Baker on September 15, 2019.

**REPORT FROM SEPTEMBER 10 PRESBYTERY MEETING** – The meeting included the first reading of the 2020 budget, which includes a per capita increase to \$39 (ours will be  $170 * \$39 = \$6,630$ , down from \$7,992). The Clergy Renewal Leave Policy was approved; this requires that pastors be offered at least three months' leave after six years of employment. One presbytery is yet to vote on the new structure for NJ but work is ongoing. The Succasunna church has undertaken a number of "green" initiatives.

**PASTOR'S REPORT** – A written report was received. Newton Presbytery has begun a church visitation program, partly in anticipation of the new structure for NJ; Scott and Becky are both serving on visitation teams with members of the Presbytery Committee on Ministry. Session will be requested to hold a special meeting for this visitation. Scott will be taking a vacation day on November 10 in order to help celebrate his parents' 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary; Patrick will be preaching.

The next regular Session meeting is scheduled for November 11, 2019 at 7 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM with prayer led by Scott Foster.