

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MADISON

Session Meeting Notes

January 13, 2020

PRESENT: Moderator: The Rev. Scott Foster

Ruling Elders: Bob Baisch, Cheryl Bolton, Sara Burnet, Suzanne Flynn, Barbara Schuszler, and Becky Moody, Clerk

EXCUSED: Bill Bowen, David DePaul, Brian Peterson, Ryan Rate

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

There was a quorum present.

Scott Foster presented a devotional and prayer in the form of a responsive reading from Richard Rohr.

The docket was adopted.

OMNIBUS MOTION: Approved.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel: Brian Peterson had provided a written report, for which Suzanne Flynn provided details. The Personnel team is working on a job description for the part-time Director of Family Ministries position. Scott will continue his coaching during 2020.

Finance and Stewardship: Barbara Schuszler provided a verbal report including the following points:

- Results of the pledge campaign for 2020 have not changed significantly since the December Session meeting.
- The total 2019 endowment drawdown was \$250K, compared to an estimated \$305K at the beginning of 2019.
- Teresa expects to have financial statements from the new accounting system by January 27.
- Barbara will be preparing a 2020 budget prior to the February Session meeting.

Strategic Planning: Barbara provided a verbal report and recommended that the 2020 Session develop a new strategic plan.

Nominating: Brian plans to hold a committee meeting soon.

Life Transformation: Scott Foster had provided written reports from the Worship team, which include the scheduling of the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, the Ash Wednesday service, and the Maundy Thursday service. Joe Martinoni will be preaching on January 26 while Scott is on study leave.

Community Renewal:

- Suzanne Flynn thanked Bob and Martha Baisch for hosting the Christmas caroling.

Properties: There was a brief discussion on the status of the kitchen lease and the arrangement with Boxcar.

Clerk:

- A **Motion** was approved to celebrate communion on the first Sunday of each month from February 2020 through January 2021, in addition to Maundy Thursday and Youth Sunday in June.
- The 2020 Annual Meeting was set for Sunday, February 23, following worship.
- Communion was celebrated on Sunday, January 12, and Wednesday mornings December 11 and December 18.
- Changes in congregational rolls – transfers of Tim and Peggy Barnes to Johns Island Presbyterian Church in South Carolina and Scott, Monika and Luke Stebbins to The Presbyterian Church in Morristown.
- The Newton Presbytery Necrology Report for October 2018 through December 2019 included the death of Ruling Elder Rolanne Henry.

REPORT FROM JANUARY 11 PRESBYTERY MEETING: Becky Moody highlighted the following:

- The focus of the meeting was the Dismantling Structural Racism element of the Matthew 25 Initiative.
- The Transition Working Group for the New Jersey Missional Communities has been formed and will begin work this month.
- The presbytery voted to concur with two overtures to the 224th General Assembly – one dealing with a Korea peace treaty and one dealing with fossil fuel divestment.
- Elise Bates Russell gave a presentation on Johnsonburg.
- The presbytery celebrated the retirement of the Rev. Bronc Radak, husband of Presbytery Leader Jeanne Radak.
- Worship was led by the pastor and worship team of the Sparta (host) church.
- The next meeting is Tuesday, March 10 from 1 to 5 PM in Florham Park.

PASTOR'S REPORT: A written report was received. The Beloved Community Martin Luther King service will be at 3 PM on Sunday, January 19 at The College of Saint Elizabeth.

The next regular Session meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2020 at 7 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM with prayer led by Scott Foster.