

# SESSION NOTES

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCUSA)  
May 19, 2020

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Helena met on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 6:30 PM via Zoom due to the Coronavirus outbreak in the world and our desire to keep our community as safe as possible. Rev. Scott Wiperman opened with prayer and moderated the meeting.

There was a quorum with the following Elders present: Linda Bench, Kathy Chambers, John Coefield, Mary Craigle, Sheryl Eriksen, Marshall Gingery, Rose Leavitt, Carol Stebbins, Joe Steffens, John Warren, Karen Witte and Mary Wright. Also, in attendance: Pastor Scott Wiperman, Clerk of Session Elaine Gingery, and Deacons Jim Meyer and Candace Coefield.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Pastor Scott reported that we have rescinded his Board of Pension suspension request in order to qualify for the PPP loan/grant. We plan to continue non-gathered worship until Phase 3 of the "Reopening of the Big Sky" plan arrives. April was a strong giving month despite not gathering for worship.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Administration Committee:** Elder Marshall Gingery reported, and a printed report was submitted. Information on reporting for the PPP loan is not outlined at this time.

Personnel Committee recommended changes to procedures that would delegate financial procedures and responsibilities to multiple members so that one person will not have so many responsibilities. John Warren, Mary Wright, and Pastor Scott will work on these responsibilities and present a written recommendation back to the Administration committee.

**ACTION ITEM:** The committee proposes providing \$500 to the Glacier camp monthly through the end of the year subject to the approval of the Mission Committee. If the Mission Committee concurs, the Mission Committee will bring to Session for approval. The funding will come from the endowment account to be replenished by the PPP loan funding once it is changed to a PPP grant.

The Mission Committee concurred, and the proposal was brought to Session. Session voted to approve providing \$500 to Glacier Camp on a monthly basis until the end of 2020.

Pastor Scott called Farmers Insurance and we will have to fill out a Workers Comp dispute form to be reimbursed the money we were charged for the Workers Comp for our contractors.

**Building and Grounds:** Elder Joe Steffens reported, and a written report was submitted. Ashley Burke presented her ideas about repainting and refurnishing the Youth Group Room. How this project will proceed is yet to be determined.

Work will resume on the roofing/insulation/electrical project beginning about May 26.

**Education Committee:** Elder John Coefield reported. A printed report was submitted. The Bible in 90 Days class has ended with seventeen finishing the course.

Vacation Bible School will not take place in June and may be considered at a later time.

**Congregational Fellowship:** Elder Mary Wright reported. No activities are planned at this time.

**Seeley Scholarship:** The Seeley Scholarship Committee, Mary Wright, Melissa Stiles, Marsha Davis, approved the Seeley Scholarship in the amount of \$3000 for Steven Foster. Steven will be attending Montana Tech to pursue a Metallurgy and Materials Engineering degree.

**Mission Committee:** Elder Kathy Chambers reported. The Mission Committee met via Zoom and planned the Mission Support for the month which will be a donation to Family Promise for \$800. Florence Crittenton for \$350 and Intermountain for \$300.

The One Great Hour of Sharing final contribution from First Presbyterian Church was \$615.

The quilt project has been completed and checks have been mailed. The drawing was held outdoors on April 19 with Pastor Wiperman, Karen Witte, Sally Klein, and Kathy Chambers in attendance. The winning ticket was drawn by Pastor Scott and Sally and Jerry Klein personally delivered the quilt to the winner, Toni Larsen of Great Falls. The raffle collected \$2152. The committee voted to send checks of \$275 each to God's Love, Good Samaritan, Friendship Center, and Helena Food Share. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance received \$552 and from the Giving Catalog, 4 sets of chickens (\$100), 3 sewing machines, (\$150) and 1 irrigation pump (\$250) were selected.

The Pentecost offering will be collected May 31. Pastor Scott will promote it and notices will be in the bulletin and Mustard Seed. 40% of this offering remain locally to be used in youth focused programs and Mission has chosen Serious Juju to be the beneficiary.

The Mission Committee is working on this church being a Matthew 25 Church and will concentrate on Eradicating Systemic Poverty.

**Personnel Committee:** Elder John Warren reported, and a printed report was submitted. The Personnel Committee recommends to Administration that some of the financial duties be delegated to other volunteers in the church. A recommendation was also made to Administration to investigate revising the bylaws with regard to employees serving as Elders.

**Worship Committee:** Elder Mary Craigle reported, and a written report was submitted. Our online worship services are going well. Incoming Elders and Deacons will be ordained and installed during our video worship service.

**Deacon Report:** Deacon Candace Coefield reported. The printed Deacon report was distributed and contained information on hospital visits, communion served to shut ins, meals served, and cards sent. The March meeting minutes were also included.

***There have been no requests for assistance from the Deacons Benevolence Fund. If this Pandemic has presented financial needs for any of our church family, please contact Pastor Scott or any member of the committee, Pearl Plowman, Candace Coefield, or Elaine Gingery. The purpose of this fund is to help our church family.***

**Unfinished Business:** Coronavirus Plans. Elder Joe Steffens reported that he and the Coronavirus Task Force have been meeting every Tuesday and Thursday morning. The Task Force is Jim Meyer, Rose Leavitt, Elaine Gingery and Pastor Scott. Joe reported that Governor Bullock has announced that the state will go to Phase 2 on June 1. We do not anticipate any Gathered Worship until at least Phase 3. There are some portions of worship which are considered essential and Pastor Scott may use his discretion in implementing them.

**New Business:** Use of PPP Grant: The purpose of the PPP Loan/Grant is to assure that all our employees remain on the payroll. We also hoped to use it to assist others and we are doing that by contributing to Glacier Camp. Any other needs will be discussed next month.

Special thanks to outgoing Elders Mary Craigle, Marshall Gingery, Rose Leavitt, and Carol Stebbins. Mary, Rose, and Carol will serve another term.

John Coefield moved to adjourn the meeting and Rose Leavitt seconded the motion. Pastor Scott closed the meeting with prayer.

**Next Session Meeting: June 16, 2020 at 6:30 pm.**

Elaine Gingery  
Clerk of Session