

SESSION NOTES
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCUSA)
HELENA, MONTANA

January 15, 2019

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Helena met on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 6:30 PM at the Church. Rev. Scott Wipperman opened with worship and communion in the sanctuary. Reverend Wipperman (Scott) moderated the meeting.

There was a quorum with the following Elders present: Linda Bench, Judy Birch, Kathy Chambers, John Coefield, Mary Craigle, Marshall Gingery, Dianna Goodman, Matthew Richards, Joe Steffens, and Mary Wright. Excused was John Warren. Also, in attendance: Clerk of Session Elaine Gingery, CRE and Deacon Butch Plowman and Deacon Joy Edgar.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Printed report attached. Pastor Scott emphasized the positive aspects of the Advent Season including worship, programs, and financial. He reminded us to glorify God in our activities, accomplishments and interactions. Pastor Scott provided information on sabbatical leaves from the PC (USA) and his personal plans anticipating a sabbatical in the spring of 2020.

CLERK'S REPORT: Thank you letters were read from Austin Theological Seminary, Glacier Camp, and Special Olympics.

The Clerk read a letter of resignation letter from Marvin Carpenter resigning from the Session. Marshall Gingery moved to accept his resignation with a thank you for his service. Motion was seconded and carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration Committee: Elder Marshall Gingery reported and a printed report is attached.

There are presently fifty pledges for \$150,344 which includes \$2164 in per capita giving.

A list of bills that can be paid each month without a signature from the committee chairman has been developed. This assures that recurring bills will be paid in a timely manner.

Building and Grounds: Joe Steffens reported, and a printed report is attached. Chairman Marvin Carpenter resigned from Session so Mark Goodman and Butch Plowman will serve as interim co-chairs.

A donor is contributing towards improving the building's energy efficiency, specifically reducing electricity consumption. The primary strategies would include replacing fluorescent and incandescent light bulbs with more efficient light emitting diodes (LED bulbs) and installing solar panels on the roof. This is being investigated.

Action Item: The Building and Grounds committee asked to have the approved 2019 budget increased due to the premium increase from the insurance carrier. The carrier combined the van and building policy increasing the premium \$200 and increasing the premium for the umbrella policy \$20 for a net increase of \$220. The motion was voted upon favorably.

There were several changes to accounting procedures.

Education Committee: Elder John Coefield reported. A printed report is attached. Sunday Camp is back on a regular schedule. Additional volunteers are needed for this program.

The Youth Group will have a Lock-in on February 16 and 17.

Congregational Fellowship: Elder Mary Wright reported. A printed report is attached.

BINGO will be held on Friday, January 11, a Congregational Potluck will be held on January 20 and a Work as Worship Retreat on February 22.

The Church Directory is almost completed.

Mission Committee: Elder Kathy Chambers reported, and a printed report is attached. Donations of \$250 to Glacier Camp and \$250 to Good Samaritan will be made in January.

January-February Mission Activity will be donations of blankets and towels to the Warm Hearts Blanket and Towel Campaign.

The Giving Campaign starting in February will be the Latrine Project. This is a major health concern in 3rd World Countries and this campaign will begin in February.

Action Item: Approval from Session to promote and collect funds for the Latrine Program from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. The motion was approved by the Session.

Kathy shared a proposed note that will accompany future donations sent from the church.

The Giving Catalog and Special Offerings will have a special account line outside of the Operating Budget starting in 2019. These "pass through" contributions will be tracked in "Other Inc/Exp" rather than on the "Operating Income" side.

Personnel Committee: Elder Matthew Richards reported. The Pastor's terms of call were reviewed and will be taken to the Congregation.

Worship Committee: Elder Dianna Goodman reported. A printed report is attached.

Action Item: Request for approval to serve communion the first Sunday of each month in 2019 and January 5, 2020, and Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve. The Session approved this motion.

Marshall Gingery moved that Session appreciates and expresses gratitude to the Director of Music, Choir, Keyboardist, and Musicians for the outstanding Advent and Christmas music. Diana Goodman seconded the motion and it was voted upon favorably.

Deacon Report: A printed report was attached detailing hospital visitations and home communion served as well as cards sent, and meals served. Joy Edgar also shared the Shepherding Report. The next meeting will be February 10, 2019.

Unfinished Business:

Featured Committee Schedule: The Committee Chairman will present a Minute for Mission and a Mustard Seed article as follows: February – Worship, March – Mission, April – Building & Grounds, - May – Education, June – Administration, July – Nominating, August – Personnel, and September – Fellowship.

New Business:

2 Year Calendar: Committee Chairman are to send to Scott recurring and special items for the two-year calendar by January 27.

2019 Goals: Session Members should come to the February meeting prepared to set goals for 2019.

Next Session Meeting: February 19, 2019 at 6:30 pm.

Elaine Gingery
Clerk of Session