

**MINUTES OF THE SESSION
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCUSA)
HELENA, MONTANA
January 16, 2017**

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Helena met on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 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: Judy Birch, Marvin Carpenter, Kathy Chambers, Mary Craigle, Marshall Gingery, John Gneckow, Dianna Goodman, Matthew Richards, Melissa Stiles. Excused were Marcia Davis, Linda Bench, and John Warren. Also in attendance: Clerk of the Session Elaine Gingery, Deacon Joy Edgar, and CRE Butch Plowman.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Printed report attached. Scott reviewed the five goals set for 2017. The goals and their status are:

- Increase membership by 5%: This was accomplished with the addition of ten new members.
- Enhance our web site and platform reaching out to the community: This is still being worked on.
- Hold an open house for neighborhood with food and fun. We held an outdoor worship but are working on the open house when the murals are completed.
- Move primary distribution of the Mustard Seed to email and institute weekly "announcement" emails: Neither of these were accomplished.
- Enhance our member database for greater ease of use and integration: Major improvements.

Other major accomplishments:

- Youth group with 14 members.
- Air conditioning in the sanctuary
- Successful pumpkin patch with a change in source.
- Children's ministry program is growing.
- Enhancements to the administration side of the house.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration Committee: Elder John Gneckow reported. Printed report was distributed. Credit cards will be obtained through Valley Bank. The proposed administration budget has been revised.

Building and Grounds: Elder Marvin Carpenter reported. Ten people participated in the fall work day and the bathrooms were painted. Thank you to those members.

Education Committee: Printed report distributed. The Youth Group Lock In went well. They are meeting every Thursday at 5:30 pm.

Congregational Fellowship: Elder Kathy Chambers reported. A printed report is attached. Scheduled activities include a potluck luncheon/picnic following church on January 21, BINGO Night on January 19, and a Victorian Tea on February 10.

The Fellowship Committee will serve Soup at the Ash Wednesday supper at 5:00 pm on February 14. The Fellowship Committee will work with Presbyterian Women on meals for the Glacier Presbytery meeting to be held at the church on February 24 & 25.

ACTION ITEM: A request to have a freewill offering at the Victorian Tea. The offering will be donated to the YWCA. The motion was approved by the Session.

Mission Committee: Elder Melissa Stiles reported. Printed report is attached. The Family Promise Comfort Food Challenge is February 11 and this church will serve Little Smokies. Tickets will be available soon.

This church will participate in the ecumenical Warm Hearts Blanket & Towel Drive to collect new twin size blankets and towels for distribution to those in need on Valentine's Day. There is a collection box in the narthex.

Personnel Committee: Elder Matthew Richards reported. The Personnel Committee worked on the Personnel budget to get it in line with the requested cuts.

Worship Committee: Elder Dianna Goodman reported. Printed report is attached. Plans are being made for the Lenten Season. An Ash Wednesday Service will be held on February 14.

ACTION ITEM: Session to approve Communion for 2018. This will include the first Sunday of each month. In addition, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Christmas Eve. The motion was voted upon and passed.

Deacon Report: A printed report was distributed detailing hospital visitations and home communion served as well as cards sent, and meals served.

Unfinished Business:

2018 Budget Finalization: Marshall Gingery moved to accept the proposed reduced 2018 budget of \$281,019.10. Mary Craigle seconded the motion. Discussion followed. This is a faith budget of \$38,757.

The motion was voted upon favorably. This budget will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting.

The budget figure was reached with no increase in salaries for employees and a reduction in hours for the Administrative Assistant. The reduction in hours will become effective on February 1.

Matthew Richards moved to have a mid-year review of the budget at the May Session Meeting. Mary Craigle seconded the motion and it passed.

New Business:

2018 Goals: The 2018 goals are:

1. Enhance the website
2. Increase membership by ten members.
3. Distribute the Mustard Seed and Session Packet electronically to those who are able to receive it electronically.
4. Sustain and nurture youth group.
5. Update the directory.

Glacier Presbytery Retreat: Glacier Presbytery will be meeting in the Helena Church on February 24 & 25. The speaker will be Jim Fitzgerald, Executive Director of Intermountain. Saturday will include a time of learning, a business meeting, dinner, and a worship service with

communion. Sunday will include a continental breakfast and the members of Presbytery will worship with us and Jim Fitzgerald will deliver the sermon.

Next Session Meeting: February 20, 2018 at 6:30 pm.

Elaine Gingery
Clerk of the Session