

HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Stated Session Meeting Minutes
20 April 2022
Hybrid Meeting

Moderator Rev Kent Winters-Hazelton called the meeting to order with an Earth Day reflective prayer at 6:01 PM. A quorum was present.

Elders Present: Laurie Anderson, Ralph Bowling, Kevin Burns, Clyde Foshee, Sara Gambrell, Helen Jones, Ann Lacy, Steve Makela, David Morrison, Kathy Mounce, Nancy Owen, Patti Pinkley, Carol Pye, Craig Siegenthaler, Chris Valentine.

Clerk to the Session: Cynthia Welch

Staff Present: Kent Winters-Hazelton, Megan McCarty, Melissa Worthey, Charles Brockwell.

Guests: Joel Weible, CoM liaison; Cathy Smock, Earth Care Committee; Michael Harper, youth committee chair.

Elders Excused: Mike Reed, Lauren Wood.

Elders Absent: Ben Anderson, Paul Troy.

With a motion and a second and one correction (remove receiving Session committee assignments from the Consent Agenda) and no objections, the agenda was approved.

Clerk's Report

Minutes. The minutes of the Stated Session meeting on 16 March 2022 and the Called Session meeting on 30 March 2022 were approved with a motion and a second and no objections.

Baptisms. Joseph Porter on 10 April 2022; Johnathon Luaba on 17 April 2022.

Shannon Bostrum, under care of HPC, was accepted as an Inquirer for Ministry with MKP on 19 April 2022.

Elder and Deacon Classes of 2025 (and those elected to fill unexpired terms) were ordained and installed on 27 March 2022.

With a motion and a second and no objections, the Clerk's Report was approved.

Consent Agenda

- 1) ~~Receive Session committee assignments~~ – removed from agenda.
- 2) Approve holding a church officers' retreat on 14 May 2022.
- 3) from CE: approve "Passport to Peace" as the 2022 VBS curriculum.

- 4) from CITW: approve the following collections: school supplies for KRM and HCM in July and August; PACT food in September; Thanksgiving baskets or gift cards for HCM in November; Christmas gifts or gift cards for HCM angel tree in December.
- 5) from CITW: approve receiving donations for NUTS in April and May.
- 6) from CITW: approve placing a Little Food Pantry on HPC campus.

With a motion and a second and no objections, the Consent Agenda was approved.

Action Items

- 1) **Motion**: to approve Session norms. After discussion of the norms, and emphasis on #s 1, 3, 4, 5, and 8, this passed unanimously.
- 2) **Receive** Phase 3 report from the Race Equity Task Force. After discussion, including noting that the action items are suggestions, it passed unanimously.
- 3) from CITW: **motion**: make the Race Equity Task Force (RETF) a full committee of the Session. **Amendment**, and second: make it a sub-committee of Church in the World. Discussion. **Amendment to the amendment**, and second: table committee status until after hearing from the task force members. Passed unanimously.

Open Forum

- 1) Earth Care Committee proposal to install an electric vehicle (EV) charger in the HPC parking lot. Cathy Smock. Goals: to provide free EV charging to HPC neighbors as well as HPC members, identify as a church community that puts resources where its beliefs are (possibly attracting new members), and demonstrating to HPC youth that church leaders hear their concerns about the environment. MKP has a program called "Becoming an Earth Care Congregation." If installed before 1 July, there will be no tax on the electricity. The committee is working with Evolve KY. Installation cost is \$12,000. Questions were raised about this not having been put before Property or Finance yet, and what permits and regulations (including Landmarks) need to be looked at. After discussion, it passed with majority, pending outside approvals and permits.
- 3) Actions for youth and their parents. Discussion about what needs to happen for youth and their parents to move forward. Kent has had discussions with Rhonda Hibdon (children) and Michael Harper (youth), both of whom thought people would probably not come to further listening/discussion groups. There is a momentum for moving forward to a new pastor. Session members felt that there needs to be some work done with youth who are graduating this year, before they move on. Children and youth seem to be putting their discomfort aside to attend youth programs, even if their parents are not. HPC has a near-record number of youth going to Montreat this year. Kevin Burns said he would reach out to Michael and Rhonda to see about setting dates to meet with the parents.

Committee Reports

Worship and Spiritual Life. Carol Pye. "Real" communion is coming soon. Communion was served on 3, 14, and 17 April.

Task Force on Reopening. Kent. The task force has not met.

Stewardship. Kent. The budget deficit has been erased by new pledges.

Property. The broken door on the ramp entry has been repaired, new signage for the arrival of the new head of staff, ice machine in HPC kitchen was repaired, and various other repairs/upgrades/patches around the property.

Personnel. Craig Siegenthaler. No report.

PNC. Kevin Burns. Three candidates have been in town to visit.

Finance. Chris Valentine for Mike Reed. No report.

Fellowship. Megan. No report.

Earth Care Committee. Nothing further.

CNC. Two more Elders needed to fill classes.

Church in the World. Nothing further.

Race Equity Task Force. Anti-racism training is on 17 May.

Christian Education. Nothing further.

Liaison to Deacons. Kathy Mounce. Nothing to report.

Pastors' Reports

Megan. So much going on. She is serving on many committees and keeping them going, doing pastoral care, etc.

Kent. Staff is doing preliminary work on the HPC roll, and will bring that to Session in June.

Both pastors fully participated in Holy week observances.

As the meeting was being adjourned with prayer after a motion and a second and no objections at 7:47 PM, Michael Harper joined late virtually to report on the youth. The meeting was reopened at 7:50 PM.

Open Forum

2) Michael Harper report. He feels that people are on the fence about past issues with Rev Harris, are tired, and want to move on. It is not a crisis anymore, but people are looking for reconciliation and ways to connect. He feels they are tired of listening groups and want tangible steps for what needs to be done constructively. Michael suggested training staff to help them lead people forward. If people prefer not to come together as groups, people can reach out for private conversations. A possible solution would be letters from the Session, with handwritten notes on the bottom, saying "We've missed you."

The meeting was re-adjourned at 8:05 PM with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia B Welch
Clerk to the Session