

**HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**Session Meeting Minutes**  
**18 May 2022**  
**Hybrid Meeting**

Moderator Rev Kent Winters-Hazelton called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM with evening prayer. A quorum was present.

Elders Present: Ralph Bowling, Kevin Burns, Clyde Foshee, Sara Gambrel, Ann Lacy, Steve Makela, Kathy Mounce, Nancy Owen, Craig Siegenthaler, Paul Troy, Chris Valentine, Lauren Wood.

Clerk to the Session: Cynthia Welch

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

Guests: Joel Weible, MKP CoM Liaison; Maryann Smith, new member candidate; Clay Gahan, Race Equity Task Force; Joe Phelps, group leader; Steve Holmes.

Elders Excused: Ben Anderson, Laurie Anderson, Helen Jones, Carol Pye.

Elders Absent: David Morrison, Patti Pinkley, Mike Reed.

With a motion and a second and no objections, the agenda was adopted

**Clerk's Report**

Minutes. With a motion and a second and no objections, the minutes from the Stated Session Meeting on 20 May 2022 were approved.

Birth. Matilda Lee Anderson, daughter of Ben and Jessie Anderson, 14 May 2022.

Deaths. Joan Money, 17 May 2022. James Pendleton (Pen) Helm (non-member, son of Susan Helm and nephew of Todd Brown), 13 May 2022

The officers' retreat for Elders and Deacons was held on 14 May 2022.

**Action Items**

1) From Personnel Committee: approve the hiring of Melissa Worthey as pastoral assistant during Megan McCarty's parental leave (up to 16 weeks, mid-to-late July through September-ish). This has already been approved by Finance committee. It passed unanimously.

2) Elect commissioners to the MKP meeting on 23 May. With a motion and a second and no objections, Steve Makela, Kathy Mounce, Craig Siegenthaler, and Cynthia Welch were elected.

## **Committee Reports**

### Christian Education:

Children. No report

Youth. Has not met.

Adult. The summer Faith and Film series has five films; leaders are needed for the discussions.

Church in the World. No report.

Earth Care. EV charger installed in HPC parking lot, although not yet functional.

Fellowship. Vini will be combining Arts on the Corner and PresFest, making it a bigger community event, on 25 September.

Finance. No report.

PNC. At the same point – hopefully an announcement soon.

Personnel. Nothing further.

Property. The post has been installed for the Little Free Food Pantry on Highland Ave.

Stewardship. The numbers are encouraging.

Worship and Spiritual Life. No meeting. Communion was served on 1 May 2022.

Deacons. Each Deacon is staying in touch with about nine HPC Sages.

## **Pastors' Reports**

Megan. Working with Earth Care committee, PresFest, Empower West, Nursey and WDS meetings, MKP and CoM, the Little Free Food Pantry, and much more.

Kent. Working with officer training, committee and staff meetings, CoM task force, College of Elders, pastoral contacts, and much more.

## **Order of the Day**

1) Maryann Smith presented for membership at HPC. She is transferring from New Goshen PC, which is dissolving. Maryann has worked with WOW for seven years already. After discussion with Maryann, and a motion, second, and no objections, she was approved for membership.

2) Clay Gahan, from the Race Equity Task Force, discussed the race audit conducted by HPC. Phase One discussed where HPC is now, and the land it sits

on. Phase Two discussed current practices for HPC (2007 forward), and to see if those practices are working. Phase Three discusses the hopes for going forward, looking at HPC honestly, and having honest conversations. The task force has ended its work, but the conversations need to continue with the new pastor.

3) Joe Phelps reported on the meetings held with the parents of youth and children. These have not been well-attended to date. Moving forward, Joe feels the Session needs to have conversations with church members. The Session needs to take the initiative to name its own pain, but rise above that to address the pain of others. The Session needs to bring healing however it can. When the new pastor comes, the Session should reach out to people individually. Giving open avenues for people who are hurting to reach out safely is important. Joe felt that the Session needs to apologize, but it was pointed out to him that was done in the letters sent (which he did not know about).

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 7:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia B Welch  
Clerk to the Session