

HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Session Meeting Minutes
15 June 2022
Hybrid Meeting

Moderator Rev Kent Winters-Hazelton called the meeting to order with evening prayer at 6:03 PM. A quorum was present

Elders Present: Laurie Anderson, Kevin Burns, Clyde Foshee, Sara Gambrell, Ann Lacy, Steve Makela, David Morrison, Kathy Mounce, Nancy Owen, Patti Pinkley, Carol Pye, Mike Reed, Craig Siegenthaler, Paul Troy.

Clerk to the Session: Cynthia Welch

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

Guests: Bill Williamson and Katherine Trentham, MKP CoM

Elders Excused: Ben Anderson, Helen Jones, Chris Valentine

Elders Absent: Ralph Bowling, Lauren Wood

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

Clerk's Report

Minutes. The minutes of the Stated Session meeting on 18 May were approved with a motion and a second and no objections.

Birth. Owen Grantz, son of Dana Wright and Jason Grantz, on 3 June 2022

Consent Agenda

Motion: Approve the request from the Earth Care Team (via Property Committee) to plant a community garden on the south terrace of the PMC. Funds – about \$900 for raised beds – will come from the surplus of the Capital Campaign. **Approved.**

Open Forum

1) Craig Siegenthaler spoke about preparing for the conclusion of the Transitional Pastor contract. Kent will have served for two years by the end of August. There is no Senior Pastor/Head of Staff prospect in the near term, and no one wants the PNC to rush. CoM has suggested HPC contract with a Bridge Transitional Pastor, to cover from approximately the end of August for four to six months or so.

Action Item 1: From the Personnel Committee: **Motion:** appoint a committee consisting of a subset of members from the Personnel Committee, Cynthia

Welch, and an additional at-large member to hire a Bridge Transitional Pastor who will begin working on or about 1 September 2022, on a month-to-month basis. This position:

- will be an ordained pastor;
- may serve as co-pastor with Megan McCarty;
- is needed to provide pastoral services following the conclusion of the call for Kent as Transitional Pastor/Head of Staff;
- compensation will be commensurate with experience and skills of the Bridge Transitional Pastor;
- Personnel will develop a job description for this position;
- the Bridge Transitional Pastor will continue employment through the hiring of the Senior Pastor/Head of Staff. **Approved unanimously.**

2) Report on children and youth parents' meetings and follow-up discussions. The third parents' meeting was the most successful, with 20 attending.

Comments and thoughts:

- Joe Phelps was skilled in getting people to name their feelings;
- the participants want to be part of the congregation – how do we bring them back?
- bring smaller groups together going forward;
- people don't feel listened to;
- talk and listen to different perspectives;
- what is the parents' group willing to do going forward?
- try not to judge those with different views;
- have loosely-structured home meetings for those feeling disenfranchised:
- the parents' group wants to have relationships with each other;
- send a letter to HPC members who are not parents and want to talk;
- should the Session take ownership moving forward?

Bill Williamson commented that CoM has not done the best job of helping HPC through this time. Members of CoM pledged to continue to come to Session meetings. Ann Lacy and Kathy Mounce will consider how to proceed.

Action Item

2) From Church in the World Committee: **Motion**: make the Race Equity Task Force a committee of the Session. Discussion: Who will be the committee members – start with the list Megan had of about 55 members? Should each committee have a DEI section, based on Phase 3 of the Race Audit, or should the committee see that it happens? **Approved.**

Committee Reports

Worship and Spiritual Life. Carol Pye. Summer choir is beginning. Ushers are still needed. Communion has gone back to pre-packaged elements. Communion was served on 5 June 2022.

Stewardship. Has not met.

Property. Clyde Foshee. The apartment lease (above the church office) will be terminated 30 June.

Personnel. Craig Siegenthaler. Megan's leave has been adjusted to start 27 June and end 18 September. Looking for additional pastoral care into the fall.

PNC. Kevin Burns. PNC is continuing its work to find a Senior Pastor.

Finance. Mike Reed. STITCH is being issued a credit card payment machine.

Fellowship. Megan McCarty. HPC is going to the Bats game on 28 July. PresFest/Arts on the Corner is 25 September.

Earth Care. The EV charger is up and now functioning, and HPC has received the \$3000 rebate from MKP.

Congregational Nominating Committee. Has not met.

Church in the World. No report.

Christian Education. The youth had covid issues at Montreat. The Faith and Film series is beginning.

Deacons. Kathy Mounce. The Deacons are taking cookies to the Sages.

Report from MKP meeting. Cynthia Welch. The conflict of interest policy for all of MKP (not just CoM, where it originated) passed. New Goshen PC is dissolving. There were financial issues from Calvin PC's dissolution that were referred back to the Administrative Committee.

Pastors' Reports

Megan. Her parental leave has been moved up. Staff will have a list of who is covering for what while she is out.

Kent. He is beginning to plan how to wrap up his time with HPC. He made a point to recognize how valuable Megan has been to him in his time here, and has enjoyed watching her develop as a pastor, and has benefited from her prolific contacts.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 7:26 PM.

Cynthia B Welch
Clerk to the Session