

**HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 7, 2022**

MINUTES

The meeting convened at 7:01 p.m. Present were Martha Makela, Carolyn Cromer, Patricia Connally, Rebecca Mead, Nancy Owen, Ann Lacy, Ann Holmes, and Rhonda Hibdon.

Rhonda offered condolences to the Holmes family on the unexpected death of Steve's brother.

OLD BUSINESS

The current **sitter situation** is better with the addition of Tara Kremer and Abby Sekula's willingness to work while she's home from school. We provided sitters for the Parenting workshops that Megan McCarty offered to Church and Nursery/Weekday School. Nancy Owens will inquire if the school might split the cost the sitters for those events.

Only one church member responded to the bulleting blurb about being a **church buddy**. We will try to get a "Minute for Mission" time delivered by Carolyn Cromer, and a tear-off slip in the bulleting to make this more visible. The point of these is to create connections between our children and members who aren't young parents. Ann L. will be the point person to match adults with buddies. Another way to create connections would be to ask members to take charge of a table at the Advent Workshop on Dec. 4. Martha volunteered to take a table.

Becky Slagle is working on the **Thanksgiving service** with 3rd-5th grade Sunday School. The Committee is grateful for her commitment to this.

The **Christmas Pageant** play has been selected and Rhonda will go through and determine how many parts, speakers, are needed. Parts will be offered, and the play will be reviewed at Sunday School on Dec. 4 and 11. Martha will visit classes to introduce songs so that those who don't come to choir will be familiar. There will be a one-hour rehearsal on Dec. 17 from 10-11 a.m.

The **Roots** trip to Mega Cavern was fun and the "Minute to Win It" was also well received. It's time to plan for after Christmas. Ann H. will check in with Kimberlee to see if she might be interested in a cooking activity when she's able. In December the children will stuff "sock kits" to give to folks in the community who might need them. Rhonda has a list of other possibilities which we'll flesh out at the December meeting. She'll send out her list to the members and we can flesh them out at the Dec. meeting.

- It was noted that the Family Night schedule caused Roots to lose one of its meetings and the topics for that age were not quite as engaging. Rhonda would like to be included in the planning for Family Nights and perhaps they can be scheduled on "non-ROOTS" dates. Ann H will bring this up to the planning committee.

Nursery and Weekday School will include the dates of our activities in their newsletters so that school parents can join in if interested.

Carolyn asked for clarification on HPC's **Child Protection Policy**. Members of this Committee want children to feel at home/comfortable in the church building. We also recognize there are safety issues to consider. There was a lengthy discussion of the many ways this could play out and the legalities of the situation. We decided to ask the Session to review the policy (**action item for Session**) and want to be sure that we and those leading Youth have input into the process of review. Ann L. will send a copy of the current policy to Committee members.

Future meetings will continue via ZOOM as this is easier for parents with school children. However, the **December 5 meeting will be IN-PERSON at Martha's** when we'll roll up our sleeves and do some 2nd semester planning.

Rhonda expressed appreciation for the support of the Committee and recently for Patricia's rescue for Mega Cavern trip.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Lacy