

HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Session Meeting
15 March 2023
PMC

Moderator Rev Nolan Huizenga called the meeting to order with prayer at 6:16 PM. A quorum was present.

Elders Present: Colleen Abate, Ralph Bowling, Kimberlee Burns, Amelia Connally, Jim Crowley, Time Daniel, Helen Jones, Ann Lacy, David Morrison, Kathy Mounce, Cooper Osborne, Patti Pinkley, Carol Pye, Nancy Reed, Craig Siegenthaler, Paul Troy, Chris Valentine.

Staff Present: Nolan Huizenga, Charles Brockwell.

Guests: Marissa Galvan-Valle, Katherine Trentham, Bill Williamson, MKP CoM; Steve Holmes

Elders Excused: Sara Gambrell, Sallie Stevens

Elders Absent: Jane Burbank, Nancy Owen.

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

Report from Commission on Ministry. Marissa, Katherine, and Bill reported on what MKP has discussed concerning how CoM can improve engagement with congregations, stemming from their past interaction with HPC :

- increase involvement with a congregation, pastor, or both at the first sign of an issue of concern
- CoM is about support and not enforcement of rules – they need to let congregations and pastors know that
- CoM should continue to develop relationships with congregations through the Advocate Program
- Teach some or all CoM members skills to work with congregations experiencing tension – i.e., conflict resolution skills, including but not limited to moderating a large meeting
- Assign only CoM members trained to work with congregations experiencing tension to congregations or pastors or both
- Be aware of the power of language when labeling congregations and avoid pejorative terms

Clerk to the Session. By unanimous consent, Cynthia Welch was re-elected as Clerk to the Session.

Clerk's Report

Minutes. The minutes of the 15 Feb 2023 Session meeting were approved as written.

Deaths. Robert Dolack, 15 February 2023; Ilam Smith, 22 Feb 2023.

Membership. Reinstate Lisa Thompson to membership at HPC.

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

Consent Agenda

From Church in the World: Approve 1st quarter mission partner disbursements (previously approved in the budget): MKP, \$14,000; Cabbage Patch, \$3,000; KRM, \$2,000; Habitat, \$2,500; HCM, \$5,500; PACT, \$1,000.

With a **motion** and a second and no objections, these were **approved**.

Introduction of new Session members: Colleen Abate, Jane Burbank, Kimberlee Burns, Amelia Connally, Jim Crowley, Tim Daniel, Cooper Osborne, Nancy Reed, and Sallie Stevens.

Committee Reports

MKP meeting update. 25 February 2023. MKP has approved \$650,000 to start a new church, at the site of the former New Goshen PC. Using a different model, they will call a pastor to start the church, and also look for a revenue-producing entity to share the building.

MKP is also buying medical debt, and all are welcome to make a contribution to that initiative.

PNC. No report

Deacons. Kathy Mounce. She reiterated how important the Deacons' role is, especially in planning memorial receptions on short notice.

Youth Ministries. Kimberlee Burns and Steve Holmes. The youth raised \$1,070 using the church parking lot during the St Patrick's Day parade.

Worship and Spiritual Life. Carol Pye. Communion was served on 5 March 2023.

Stewardship. No report.

Race Equity. No report.

Property. A group has been formed to lead the HPC Makeover project. This will include but is not limited to new paint, flooring, lighting, and furnishing to the Sunday school rooms, chapel, church offices, and PMC lobby.

Personnel. Ann Lacy. They are working to determine the most appropriate staffing configuration going forward.

Finance. David Morrison. HPC is ahead of budget as of February.

Fellowship. Ralph Bowling. HPC will screen "At the River," a documentary about Southern pastors during the civil rights movement in the 1960s, on 27 March. Several other events are in the planning stages for spring and summer.

Earth Care. Helen Jones. The Walker Nevin building is undergoing an energy audit.

CNC. No report, their work is finished for the moment.

Church in the World. Nothing additional.

Children's Ministries. No report.

Adult Education. Nolan. Cynthia Campbell will discuss her book *Meeting Jesus at the Table* on 22 March.

Pastors' Reports

Megan. She is on vacation this week.

Nolan. The officers' retreat (Elders and Deacons) will be on 25 March at noon.

With a motion and a second, the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia B Welch
Clerk to the Session