

SESSION NOTES
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCUSA)
HELENA, MONTANA
March 20, 2018

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Helena met on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 6:30 PM at the Church. Rev. Scott Wipperman opened with worship and communion in the sanctuary. Reverend Wipperman (Scott) moderated the meeting.

There was a quorum with the following Elders present: Judy Birch, Linda Bench, Marvin Carpenter, Mary Craigle, Dianna Goodman, Matthew Richards, Melissa Stiles and John Warren. Excused were: Kathy Chambers, Marsha Davis, and Marshall Gingery. Also, in attendance: Acting Clerk of the Session Rose Leavitt, CRE Butch Plowman, Elder Elect Mary Wright and Deacon Joy Edgar.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Printed report attached. Scott reported that February began as a strong month and ended with a whimper. February was a bad month due to large expenses. Scott stated that at the meeting in May Session will review the budget to see if it needs to be adjusted up or down.

CLERK'S REPORT: Acting Clerk Rose Leavitt read thank you cards from Warm Hearts the new ecumenical ministry of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Associates of Helena for the new blankets and new towel sets donated to warm the poor in Helena. There were 187 new blankets and 355 new towel sets donated by the 12 participating churches. Also read were cards from Marsha Anson, Glacier Presbytery Executive/Stated Clerk thanking the Helena Church for the fabulous job of hosting the presbytery retreat; the Helena Music Teachers Association expressing appreciation for use of the church for their annual Festival; and a thank you from Liz Samson for allowing her to represent the YWCA and for the free-will offering collected at the Victorian Tea.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration Committee: Elder Linda Bench reported. Printed report is attached. The church is closer to getting the credit cards. The cards will be given to Lexsey, Scott, Les and Bruce to purchase items for the church.

Lexsey Carpenter has requested \$300 from the Anderson Trust to buy Bibles for the Youth Group. This will be discussed/decided at the next Admin meeting. Linda stated that she would be taking over the Sunday money counting and deposits from Lona Albright. A second key for the night deposit box will be requested. John G will get the paperwork from the bank, so Linda Bench can be authorized to sign checks.

Action Item: That Session concurs with the Administration Committee recommendation to contract with Jill Lloyd as an Independent Contractor for maintaining the church's financial records and providing financial reports to Session and to the State and Federal Governments.

During discussion about contracting with Jill Lloyd, the Session cautioned Admin to seek advice drafting the contract between Jill and the church. It was also noted during discussion that contracting with Jill Lloyd would save the church money. **The Session concurred unanimously with the recommendation to contract with Jill Lloyd for financial services.**

Building and Grounds: Elder Marvin Carpenter distributed his report and discussed briefly the issues contained in the report: Lights on outside of building are not turning off and Marvin will be contacting the electrical company to check out this issue; security issues regarding locking office door, checking all entrances (7) and the main church door; the furnace has been installed and working well and the nursery furnace was also checked and is okay for now; the leak in the choir room has gotten worse with the snow and melting and when it is dried someone will need to look at the roof for a solution. Marvin will contact the insurance company to look at the damage. Marvin has a new idea for placement of the Mission bricks and will discuss it with the Mission team.

Education Committee: Elder Melissa Stiles stated the committee had done an email meeting concerning a request from Lexsey for permission to do a fundraiser "Meal of Fortune" to raise money for camp. It will be held on June 3rd. Since this issue is coming from committee Marvin seconded the motion which carried. Melissa also reported that VBS has been set for June 11 - 15 and anyone wishing to assist should contact Lexsey. Lunch will not be served this year; however, snacks will be provided.

Congregational Fellowship: Elder Linda Bench reported. A printed report is attached. Issues of note were reviewed by Linda - Bingo is scheduled next on April 20th; helping with getting the schedule of pictures to be taken during the month of April; helping to organize the potlucks for the Inquirers Classes and assisting Dianna with the new database.

Mission Committee: Elder Melissa Stiles distributed and discussed the Mission Committee report. Printed report is attached. Family Promise - hoping to accept families starting March 26th; FPC's next dates are April 29, September 2, and December 2, and will work on getting increased volunteer numbers for people to eat/spend the night.

Personnel Committee: Elder Matthew Richards reported. There was no business this month.

Worship Committee: Elder Dianna Goodman reported. Printed report is attached. Dianna talked about the busy Holy Week with Maundy Thursday service at 7 pm and Good Friday service at noon. She reminded Session members that this is an important week in the life of the church and as leaders of our church it is very important that we attend these services. She also discussed the information cards which will be available in the pews Sunday to get updated information for the database from each individual member and friend attending church. This information will be used also for updating the pictorial directory.

Deacon Report: A printed report was distributed detailing hospital visitations and home communion served as well as cards sent, and meals served.

Unfinished Business: Pastor Scott discussed information about a web site which is on sale through Easter at 25% off. The cost would be approximately \$629. It is a tool called "ShareFaith" which will assist the church in setting up the church web page. Deb Whitcomb will select the most encompassing package. Since money has been set aside for this expenditure, John Warren stated that Scott could just do a check request to take care of this.

Inquirer Class: Inquirers' Class Participation: An invitation about the inquirers' class to be held April 29th following the 11:30 am potluck lunch will be sent to individuals who have been

attending and the latest new members. It was suggested that Deacons and Elders be a part of this session.

Elder/Deacon Training: The Elder/Deacon training will be held on Saturday, April 14. According to the Book of Order, Elders and Deacons are to meet together at least once per year. He said that the new Book of Order will be available soon.

New Business: At the Presbytery meeting delegates voted for Glacier Presbytery send \$2,000 worth of baby formula to Browning. Scott suggested that anyone who would like to send a donation to Glacier Presbytery to help with this \$2,000 expenditure it would be very much appreciated. A motion was made by Matthew Richards and seconded by John Warren that our church do a special offering Sunday to assist with the expenditure. Motion passed.

Next Session Meeting: April 17, 2018 at 6:30 pm.

Rose Leavitt
Acting Clerk of the Session