

SESSION NOTES FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCUSA) HELENA, MONTANA

MAY 15, 2018

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Helena met on Tuesday, May 15, 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, Kathy Chambers, Marsha Davis, John Gneckow, Dianna Goodman, Matthew Richards and Melissa Stiles.

Excused were: Marshall Gingery and John Warren. Also, in attendance: Acting Clerk of the Session Rose Leavitt, Elder Elect Mary Wright, Elder Elect Joe Steffens, Elder Elect John Coefield, and Deacon Joy Edgar.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Printed report attached. Finances were better in April and the first two weeks of May have been strong. Currently the church is negative approximately \$3,300 for the year to date.

Scott will be attending General Assembly in St. Louis over the regular date of the June Session meeting (6/19). He will also be gone June 9 and 10 for the Presbytery Retreat. He advised that Butch Plowman will be filling the pulpit on June 17, July 1 and July 8 during the time that Scott will be on vacation. Rick Hulbert will be filling the pulpit on June 24. Butch Plowman will also be taking care of pastoral care needs during Pastor Scott's absence.

We have ended the season of Easter and are coming upon the Day of Pentecost on May 20th. There will be a special Pentecost offering on Sunday and 40% of the amount collected will stay in FPC for the youth.

CLERK'S REPORT: Acting Clerk Rose Leavitt read a thank you card from Florence Crittenden for the towels and blankets collected by our church.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Administration Committee: Elder John Gneckow reported. He stated there will be some overlap during the month of June with WIPFLi and Jill Lloyd to facilitate Jill taking over the financial duties in July.

Building and Grounds: Elder Marvin Carpenter reported and distributed his report. He noted that two insurance folks come by the church to look at damage with the end result that we filed a claim and have received a check for \$1,727. We have a \$2,500 deductible for this incident. The contractor should start working on the brick repair by the ramp soon. An estimate has been requested for work that needs to be done on the pillars. Marvin reminded everyone about the garage sale on May 18 and 19.

Education Committee: Elder Marsha Davis reported. Vacation Bible School will be June 11-15 from Noon to 3:00 pm each day. She stated that the Seeley Scholarship Committee met on Sunday, April 22, 2018 to review two applications for the Seeley Scholarship through the Montana Community Foundation. The two applicants, Kristen Clausen and Kelly Craigle were awarded \$1,500 each.

Congregational Fellowship: Elder Linda Bench reported. A printed report is attached. Mother's Day will be celebrated by presenting carnations to all the women of the church. Everyone was reminded of the many activities planned for the coming months.

Mission Committee: Elder Kathy Chambers reported. Printed report is attached. The committee made monthly contributions to Glacier Camp \$500 and Florence Crittenden \$150. It was discussed by the team to hand deliver the Mission monetary gifts. The committee gladly accepted Carol Gneckow's offer to deliver the check to Glacier Camp.

Personnel Committee: Elder Matthew Richards reported. A revised Personnel Policy Manual will be brought to Session for approval at the June meeting.

Worship Committee: Pastor Scott reported that the committee had met earlier today. Plans for Pentecost were discussed; the Sunday School kids will be doing their sign language song in church. Ann requested that the piano in the sanctuary be tuned. Les will take care of getting this done.

Deacon Report: A printed report was distributed detailing hospital visitations and home communion served as well as cards sent, and meals served. The next Deacons meeting will follow church on May 20.

Unfinished Business:

New Business: The contract for Jill Lloyd was discussed. Jill will be working in-house on Monday and Thursday from 1 to 2:30 pm. Approval of the contract came from committee. Marvin Carpenter seconded the motion which passed. There was an item under "X. Insurance where the wording needed to be changed to state that Contractor will be required to maintain "and show proof of" general liability insurance.

The issue of terms of office for elders was discussed. Pastor Scott, in reading in the Book of Order, found that an elder may serve only six consecutive years, including any years filling a partial term. It will be necessary to propose a change to the Bylaws.

John Gneckow was chosen to serve as the Commissioner to Presbytery for the next three meetings in June, October 2018 and February of 2019.

June Meeting: Pastor Scott will be at General Assembly at the time Session normally meets. It was decided to schedule the June meeting for the 26th - the last Tuesday in June.

Budget Review: The Admin Committee will monitor and bring forth any good/bad figures with recommendation.

Next Session Meeting: June 26, 2018 at 6:30 pm.

Rose Leavitt
Acting Clerk of Session