

# MINUTES OF THE SESSION FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCUSA) HELENA, MONTANA

JANUARY 18, 2022

The regular meeting of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Helena was called to order on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 6:30 PM by Reverend Scott Wiperman. This was conducted as a hybrid meeting. Reverend Scott Wiperman opened with prayer and moderated the meeting.

Pastor Scott Wiperman shared a story by Elizabeth Gilbert about a bus ride she had and the bus driver's way to reduce his passenger's current days worries.

There was a quorum with the following Elders present: Barb Leland, Kathy Chambers, Rose Leavitt. Attending on Zoom were Elders Sheryl Eriksen, Linda Bench, John Coefield, Carol Stebbins, Mary Stiles, Karen Witte, Clerk of Session John Gneckow, and Deacon Candace Coefield. Also in attendance: Pastor Scott Wiperman, and CP Butch Plowman. Elder Mary Wright was absent.

Guests in attendance were Leo Potter, Vic Reiman, and Jim and Mary Brainard, all of whom were seeking membership in the church. Each person gave a brief account of their faith journey. Following Reaffirmation of Faith, a motion was presented to accept all four individuals into membership. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF DOCKET:** Following a request to include a discussion on the 2022 Terms of Call for Pastor Wiperman, a motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the docket with the additional item.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of December 21, 2021, as presented.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Pastor Scott reported that we ended the year in the red even though December had a net positive of \$8,460. The shortfall for the year was \$28,535. Our investments did well helping us to meet our PILP loan payments, provide \$4000 in scholarships, and cover the expenses for two new heaters and a surveillance/security system.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** The Clerk reported that FPC received thank you notes for recent donations from our Mission Committee to Intermountain and Glacier Camp.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Administration Committee:** Elder Linda Bench reported, and a written report was submitted.

The committee reviewed the end of year Vanguard investment activity. Following the review, the committee recommended the following motion to Session for approval and presentation at the annual Congregational Meeting in February 2022: **ACTION ITEM:** The transfer of \$1718.38 from Vanguard Account #1 to the Mission Committee IAW the "Mission Motion" approved at the called congregational meeting of April 11, 2021. The motion carried.

**Building and Grounds:** Elder John Coefield reported, and a written report was submitted. The alarm company is still working on programming the hours that FPC wants the alarm system to be automatically armed/disarmed. The Committee Chair is looking for bids for new insurance for the church as Farmer's has raised our rates again.

**Christian Education Committee:** Elder Mary Stiles reported that the Committee did not meet in January. The plan is to start some adult education programs during 2022.

**Congregational Fellowship:** Elder Linda Bench reported, and a written report was submitted. Fellowship Time following worship is allowed with masks required and no food or drink. To-Go treats are still available following the worship service.

**Mission Committee:** Elder Kathy Chambers reported, and a written report was submitted.

Solicitation of winter clothing to donate to God's Love is going quite well requiring additional space to hold all the donations. Matthew 25 donations for February are a request for feminine hygiene products to be shared with Good Samaritan, Florence Crittenton, and other groups involved with women.

**Memorial Committee:** No activity to report this month.

**Nominating Committee:** Elder John Coefield reported. The committee has four people committed for the Elder class of 2025 and two individuals to fill the remaining terms of the two Elders who resigned partway through their terms. They still need two people to complete the Deacon class of 2025.

**Personnel Committee:** Carol Stebbins initially reported that the committee had not met during January. However, a Called Committee meeting was held January 16, 2022, to review Pastor Scott's Terms of Call and made a change to the Continuing Education Reimbursement reducing the amount from \$3000 to \$1500. No other changes were made.

**Worship Committee:** No Committee representative at Session although a written report was submitted. Pastor Scott reported that he will be on vacation the week of April 24.

We are already preparing for Lent. Ash Wednesday is March 2 and FPC will have a service beginning at 7:00 PM. Communion will be served along with the imposition of ashes.

We will no longer be showing on the screen the words to the music but will be using the Glory to God song books in the pews.

Also, to encourage use of the pew Bibles, we will no longer show the words to the scripture lessons on the screen.

**Covid Task Force:** Pastor Scott reported that the Task Force is continuing to monitor the situation in the Helena area, especially as pertains to the omicron variant. The committee indicated that now is not the time to sing in church as singing disperses more droplets containing the virus than speaking.

**Deacon Report:** Deacon Candace Coefield provided a report of Board activities for December. Communion was served at Touchmark and Edgewood. Session members expressed appreciation for the Christmas cards and baskets that they received during the holiday season.

**Old Business:** We are not ready to discuss the Basin church as an FPC "Chapel" as we do not yet have various questions answered such as added responsibilities and liabilities.

**New Business:** The recommended FPC Communion Services times during 2022:

The first Sunday of each month including January 2, 2023  
Ash Wednesday Service  
Maundy Thursday Service  
Christmas Eve Service

The motion to set these dates for Communion carried.

In early January, Session members were polled on a proposal by Ashley that she set up a social media presence for FPC. The consensus was to first revise our web site and then explore expanding our social media presence beyond the current role.

Scott showed a preview of a revised web site that he has created using the tool from GoDaddy.com. Elders offered some ideas for adjustment or inclusion in the web pages.

A motion was made to accept the Personnel Committee recommendation for the 2022 Pastor's Terms of Call (see Personnel Committee summary above). The motion carried.

Session reviewed the current list of members for placing those on the inactive status who have not been participating in worship services and have not contributed financially to FPC for at least a year. A motion was made to move the following members to Inactive Status:

Sandi Smith	Ann Seeley	Colby Thomas	Erin Thomas
Randy Boysen	Stephanie Boysen	Paul Chen	Abbi Lord
Amanda Grimmett	Justin Fortner		

The motion carried.

There being no further business, it was moved and seconded at 8:40 PM to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. Pastor Scott closed the meeting with prayer.

**Next Regular Session Meeting: February 15, 2022, at 6:30 pm.**

**The Annual Congregational Meeting: February 13, 2022, immediately following the Sunday worship service**

John Gneckow  
Clerk of Session