

HIDENWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting
January 27, 2021

- I. The January 27, 2021, stated Session meeting began at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Rev. Charles Tucker, Interim Pastor and moderator, established a quorum, welcomed participants, and opened with prayer. Rob Collins gave the opening devotion.

Session Members Present

Leslie Brooks Rob Collins
Jimmie Espich Shawen Bartol
Andrew Kirkpatrick Ben Mason
John Mattern Ed Miles
Arthur Henderson Beverly McLean
John Vanderhoven

Session Members Absent

Dana Stowell

Also present was Carey Gerstner, Director of Faith Formation

II. REPORT OF THE CLERK

A. Action on Minutes

1. Beverly McLean MOVED to accept the minutes of the December 15, 2020 stated Session meeting as presented. The motion was SECONDED and APPROVED.
2. Email Motions
 - a. On December 29, 2020, the Endowment Committee MOVED to approve giving \$2,000 scholarship money each to Kendall Norfleet, Garret Norfleet, and Ben Woessner. The motion was APPROVED by email consent.
 - b. On December 29, 2020, the Clerk of Session MOVED to approve Leslie Brooks as the commissioner to the January 23, 2021 PEVA meeting. The motion was APPROVED by email consent.

B. Clerk's Report

1. Death of William J. "Joe" Block, December 23, 2020
2. Death of Frances Hoyle, January 11, 2021
3. Death Marjorie Michael, January 14, 2021

C. Action on Request

1. Approved the request for transfer of Ellen Jones to Williamsburg Presbyterian Church, Williamsburg, Virginia

III. SESSION/DIACONATE LIAISON

The Diaconate met on January 20, 2021 but did not have a quorum. It was noted from the Memorial Fund Committee that the LED sign proposal has been approved by the Newport News Planning Commission and will appear before City Council for approval in February if Council meets in person. Otherwise, approval will be postponed until such time as they are able to meet in person.

IV. SESSION COMMITTEES

- A. Faith Formation.....Jimmie Espich
There were no action items brought forth. Jimmie noted that online programs continue with faithful attendance. Carey requested that members report items of good news for Facebook publication.
- B. Finance.....Arthur Henderson
Arthur presented the financial reports as well as the 2021 budget. He noted that although we had a positive year financially in 2020, our position is not sustainable. We have lost members and the building expenses will continue to rise. He suggested assembling a committee to address these financial issues. Arthur MOVED to accept the 2021 Budget as presented. The motion was APPROVED. (See attached budget.)
- C. Stewardship..... John Mattern
John has contacted all those who contributed in 2020 to remind them about 2021 giving. He noted that some people have moved, and some others will not pledge because of job loss.
- D. Worship..... Rob Collins
Rob, along with Ben Mason, chair of Personnel, presented the Video Technician job description (attached) which has been offered and accepted by Nicholas Brewster. To date Nicholas has been paid \$1,000 for his start-up time as well as \$175/Sunday for two past Sundays. Arthur Henderson, Finance chair, has budgeted money for an additional ten Sundays. There followed discussion about what some considered a high fee and the possibility of obtaining a CNU student to do the same job for less. Ben Mason MOVED to accept the job description of Video Technician as presented, with the ability to adapt as needed. The motion was ACCEPTED.
The Worship Committee MOVED to hold communion on the first Sunday of each month as well as Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve. The motion was APPROVED by email February 7, 2021.
- E. Personnel..... Ben Mason
No report
- F. Memorial Fund..... Gay Huffman
No report
- G. Endowment Fund..... Willard Hoskins No report
- H. Pastor Nominating Committee..... Andrew Kirkpatrick
Hidenwood’s MIF was approved at the December 1, 2020 COM meeting and has been uploaded to the CLC website. Already at least 25 PIFs have been received. The committee will meet Tuesday, February 2 to begin reviewing them.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. The 2020 Statistical Report was received. That report, along with the 2021 budget, will be distributed to the congregation via print media. Leslie Brooks MOVED to accept the report as presented. The motion was SECONDED and APPROVED. (See attached report.)
- B. PEVA Report- The first PEVA meeting of 2021 was by Zoom and hosted by Stone House Presbyterian in Toano. Highlights of the meeting included the following:

- A sermon by Rev. T. Clinton Mitchell, “The Other Side of Wilderness,” in which he reminded us that “the wilderness is where we go to get uncomfortable; to learn new things” and that when change is forced on us, we do great things. He cited as an example his church’s entry into and polishing of their online presence.
 - A report from Commission on Ministry which, among other things, reported that Hidenwood’s MIF had been approved.
 - A heartfelt statement of faith and faith journey story from Inquirer Donna Herring, Candidate for Ministry.
 - A reminder that the next PEVA meeting will be April 20, 2021 at 10:00 am. It **may** be a Zoom meeting. Check your calendars to see if you are able to attend!
- C. Committee Assignments-The committee assignments have been kept as they were last year with two changes: Andrew Kirkpatrick will move from Stewardship to the Faith Formation Committee, and Shawen Bartol will be on the Worship Committee.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Discussion was held regarding returning to in-person worship. Most felt that virtual worship should continue, as COVID numbers are still high, and the governor’s restrictions still remain in place. Leslie Brooks MOVED that Hidenwood Presbyterian continue virtual worship until the next Session meeting February 24 at which time the issue will be revisited. The motion was SECONDED and APPROVED.

VII. PASTOR’S REPORT

Rev Tucker gave an overview of the numbers of Facebook viewings of Hidenwood’s church services:

Dec. 20—143 times

Dec. 24—135 times

Dec. 27—72 times

Jan. 3—Carey preached. Rev. Tucker thanked Carey for allowing him the time off to visit family.

Jan. 10—65 views

Jan. 17—125 views

Jan. 24—89 views

Continuing, Rev. Tucker stated that an important goal was to greatly improve the quality of streaming services. Equipment continues to be updated and refined. Lent is from February 21-March 14. Services and programs include:

- Ash Wednesday service, February 17
- Electronic Lenten devotionals from *Presbyterian Outlook*
- Lenten Musical Program-March 14
- Palm Sunday-March 28
- Daily reflections

- Maundy Thursday communion
- Good Friday-Tenebrae
- Possible Easter Sunrise service? A Survey Monkey will be sent to members to determine interest
- 10:30 Easter service

VIII. INFORMATION ABOUT CARE GROUPS-

- A. Joan Sweet's 100th birthday is February 11
- B. Please keep the Stone and Huffman families in prayer

IX. LOOKING AHEAD

- A. Ash Wednesday, February 17
- B. 1st Sunday in Lent, February 21

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 with a closing prayer by Ben Mason.

Charles M. Tucker
Moderator

Leslie Brooks
Clerk of Session

Date minutes approved: ___ / ___ / ___

Initialed by: Clerk: _____ Assistant Clerk: _____