

**Hiddenwood Presbyterian Church  
Minutes of Stated Diaconate Meeting  
April 21, 2021**

I. Opening

The Stated Meeting of the Diaconate of Hiddenwood Presbyterian Church was held on April 21, 2021. Libby Bowman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Robert Parry opened with a devotional. Motion to approve the minutes from the February meeting by Bill Sharkey and seconded by Robert Parry. Motion passed.

In attendance:

Ben Norfleet	Robert Parry	Bill Espich	Bill Sharkey
Paige Crowther	Chris Manry	Libby Bowman	
Melanie White	Jodie Bayne	Hilary Spencer	

Not Present:

Dan Tomblin (EX)    Gay Huffman (EX)    Debbie Carrithers (EX)  
Reverend Charles Tucker (EX)

II. New Business:

None

III. Committee Reports

A. Mission.....Bill Espich

The Mission Committee met via email this month.

Dates have been established for several activities and plans are starting to be made. The committee is moving forward with scheduled events and will adjust plans as needed when dates draw closer.

1. A Rise Against Hunger event is planned for Saturday, June 12th
2. The Market for Mission will set up August 8-12<sup>th</sup> and will open August 14<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> and clean-up will be August 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>.
3. The Fall Festival will have pumpkins arrive October 10<sup>th</sup> and pumpkin sales will be October 10<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> and the Fall Festival date is October 16<sup>th</sup>.
4. The THRIVE Spring Shoe Drive is complete. Another event will probably be planned for late summer. Shoes are still coming in and will be taken to THRIVE at the end of April.
5. We continue to investigate different ways to outreach to Hiddenwood Elementary School, but it has been difficult. Outreach to the Free Methodist Central African Congregation to help with the cost of transporting their members to worship is inching along but is still incomplete.
6. Mission Committee has designated \$1000 for Massanetta Springs electronic fund-raising event on April 21<sup>st</sup> identified as "Rekindle the Fire". The Congregation contributed an additional \$225 so \$1225 was sent to Massanetta Springs. Massanetta Springs has been a great resource for Faith Formation Middle Schoolers during the summer.

- B. Food and Fellowship..... Gay Huffman/Paige Crowther  
The FF/CC committee met this month via email.
1. Food and Fellowship
    - a. Sandwich Wednesdays for the Salvation Army continues. We are providing between 80-100 sandwiches. We met on 4/14 & 4/21.
    - b. Currently, we are unable to sponsor events pertaining to food preparation. We anticipate that Rally Day 2021 may be the first event where we can share a meal.
    - c. We took an email survey of committee members and determined that members are willing to resume in person meetings. We will schedule an in-person meeting in May. We will discuss our shut-in members and determine who we can visit and discuss our card and calling ministry.
  2. Congregational Care
    - a. Cards and calls continue to go out to our Homebound community.
- C. Property..... Chris Manry  
The Property Committee met April 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss business and have a workday.
1. Belinda's Report
    - a. We developed a new leak in the roof over McKeithan Hall. The roofers came out and finished the repair on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Belinda also helped in the organization of the expanded seating capacity for Easter and cleaned the pews we had placed in the Narthex.
  2. Ken Koehler's Report:
    - a. Ken Koehler, Neal Shawen and Chris Manry spent the morning of April 7<sup>th</sup> taking down the sliding doors between the Sanctuary and the Narthex and moving pews into the Narthex for the purpose of expanding our seating capacity for Easter. It was successful as our attendance was about double of the recent Sundays. They met again on the Monday after Easter to put everything back.
  3. Committee Members Report:
    - a. The entire property committee met at the church on two Saturdays in March for the purpose of cleaning up the grounds. There were also several volunteers from the congregation who helped in these efforts. Jimmie Espich was kind enough to keep us organized with a plan and together we pruned trees, cut back shrubs, spread mulch and cleaned up the grounds. Many thanks to those who helped. Hilary also planted some new azaleas in the spot leading into the Fellowship Hall. We also managed to clean and paint the louvres on the downstairs p-tac units on the Hiden Blvd side of the building. Robert Parry did his usual great job of keeping the grass cut and trimmed.
  4. Action Items:
    - a. April 17<sup>th</sup> is the day we set for cleaning out and organizing storage rooms. We also plan to discuss the plan to paint or touch up some areas in the church during the months ahead. Also, Paige is in the process of spraying for weeds.
  5. Items for Session: None

- D. Evangelism & Communications ..... Melanie White and Ben Norfleet  
The Evangelism/Communications Committee met via email this month.
- a. Barbara Adams continues to lead the efforts to obtain a new LED sign on Hiden Boulevard. It took a while following the City Council Meeting to get the permit from the City of Newport News, but we finally have the signed permit in hand. SignMedia has ordered the message center and it should arrive by the end of April. Installation of the LED sign will begin in early May. Thank you to Barbara and others for their continued efforts and support of this project.
  - b. Barbara Adams continues to put out the *Hidenwood Herald* as well as the *News You Can Use* to help keep members updated on events and happenings within the church.

IV. Old Business:  
None

V. Pastor Report – Reverend Charles Tucker  
Reverend Charles Tucker out of the office April 19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. Carey Gerstner preaching April 25<sup>th</sup>.

VI. Rejoicing & Weeping

- A. Judy Mahler’s son recently past. Prayers for the family during this time.
- B. Ken Koehler had an accident with his eye and must have surgery to restore vision. Keep in prayers.
- C. Rejoicing for Libby Bowman’s cousin who had a surgical mishap but is in rehab and is recovering.
- D. Rejoicing for Ben Norfleet’s son who will be walking for graduation.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, Bill Sharkey closed the meeting with prayer. Bill Espich motioned to adjourn, seconded by Bill Sharkey. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melanie White, Secretary