

HIDENWOOD PRESBYTERAN CHURCH
Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting
September 22, 2021

- I. The September 22, 2021, stated Session meeting began at 7:06 in McKeithen Hall. Pastor Andrew Whitehead, new Pastor and Head of Staff, established a quorum, welcomed participants, and opened with prayer. Dana Stowell gave the opening devotion.

<u>Session Members Present</u>		<u>Session Members Absent</u>
Leslie Brooks	Ed Miles	Beverly McLean (EX)
Jimmie Espich	Dana Stowell	John Mattern (EX)
Andrew Kirkpatrick	John Vanderhoven	
Ben Mason	Arthur Henderson	
Shawen Bartol		

Carey Gerstner, Director of Faith Formation, was also present.

II. REPORT OF THE CLERK

- A. Action on Minutes
1. Jimmie Espich MOVED to accept the minutes of the July 28, 2021 Stated Session meeting as submitted. The motion was SECONDED and APPROVED.
- B. Clerk's Report
1. Death of Robert T. Collins, August 12, 2021
 2. Death of Bennie E. Barnett, August 19, 2021
- C. Communications
- The Clerk noted receipt of Geoffrey Bell's resignation letter, a copy of which had already been sent to Session

III. REPORT FROM DIACONATE

Leslie Brooks MOVED to accept the minutes of the July 21, 2021, Diaconate minutes as received. The motion was SECONDED and APPROVED.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Faith Formation..... Jimmie Espich
1. Carey Gerstner asked Session to consider whether to continue the chartering agreement with the Boy Scout troops currently at Hidenwood Presbyterian, stating that because of financial judgements against the Boy Scouts organization, a charter might make Hidenwood vulnerable to some financial responsibility. Instead, Hidenwood may want to just have a building use agreement.

Upon the advice of Ben Mason and Arthur Henderson, the Faith Formation Committee MOVES to decline a charter with the Boy Scouts, but agrees to the continued use of our building. The current charter will remain in effect through November, at which time a lease agreement will be created. The motion was APPROVED.

2. Children and Youth Programs:

- Disposable Christian education materials will be provided for children to use in church with families.
- In-person Sunday morning programs for children will be deferred at least until Covid vaccination is available for children.
- Junior Disciples begins September 21. Bible Science is the curriculum this year. Debbi Stevens and Grace Goode will assist Carey.
- Middle School Youth is organizing for Sunday night gatherings. Grace Goode, former HPC intern, will help lead the program. Orientation meeting Sunday, September 26, at 4:00.
- Preschool Chapel will begin on October 6.
- Bible Adventures may begin later in October.

3. Adult Programs:

- Adult Seminar began September 12. Carey is leading a study of Peter.
- The Hidenwood Explorers adventured to Ft. Monroe for its first activity. Twelve participated. The next adventure is to the Williamsburg Winery Thursday, October 21.
- Two book groups are meeting monthly.
- The Yoga group suggested adding Pickle Ball for exercise and as a social activity. The church will order three Pickle Ball sets and looks forward to groups organizing to use our courts.

B. Finance..... Arthur Henderson
Arthur presented Profit and Loss sheets for January through August 2021 as well as a current Balance sheet. He also distributed a comparison of actual performance versus actual results for January through August 2021. Arthur also indicated he will apply for Covid 19 Employee Retention Credit under the CARES Act.

Andrew Kirkpatrick MOVED to accept the financial statements as presented. The motion was APPROVED.

C. Stewardship.....Leslie Brooks for John Mattern
John met with Pastor Whitehead to outline plans for the fall stewardship campaign, “New Beginnings.” The campaign should conclude by the end of October or early November.

D. Personnel.....Ben Mason
Ben, Shawen Bartol, and Pastor Whitehead met with Geoffrey Bell September 15, 2021, for an exit interview pending Geoffrey’s leaving Hidenwood effective September 30. In that meeting, Geoffrey discussed what he perceived to be the strengths and weaknesses of the music program at the church, as well as what the church should be looking for as they seek a replacement Director of Music Ministries. Geoffrey suggested that the position might be split in two, the church seeking an organist as well as someone to direct the choir.

The Personnel Committee MOVED that a search committee be established to begin looking for a new Director of Music Ministries or separate organist/choir director. The motion was APPROVED. Ben Mason will represent the Personnel Committee in that search, Shawen Bartol will act as chair, and John Simms and Jane Strebel will be asked to serve as well.

- E. Nominating Jimmie Espich
No report
- F. Hidenwood Preschool Leslie Brooks
HPC had a successful school opening. First grade currently has ten students enrolled. Eight new, highly qualified staff members have been hired.
- G. Worship Shawen Bartol, John Vanderhoven
The committee needs assistance with the lights and computers. Currently John and Shawen are the only two who have the knowledge to operate that equipment, and if either or them is unable to be in church on a particular Sunday, the front projector will not be able to be used.

Leslie Brooks MOVED to elect Shawen Bartol as the new Worship Chair. The motion was SECONDED and APPROVED.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. The election of a Church Trustee to replace Robert Collins was tabled.
- B. Ben Mason addressed Session on the issue of incorporation. Hidenwood Presbyterian is currently unincorporated, but the *Book of Order* is clear that if incorporation is permitted where a church is located, the church should follow suit. Although Ben recommended that Hidenwood become incorporated, Session agreed that more information was needed. Ben will consult with Wally Sink and other key members, and the issue was tabled.
- C. Ben Mason MOVED to update page 3, X, Session in the *Manual of Operations* to change *fifteen (15) ruling elders* to *nine (9)* and to change page 4, XI, Deacons *eighteen (18)* to *nine (9)*. The motion was SECONDED and APPROVED.
- D. The Inclement Weather Policy will be amended to change *Rob Collins* to *the Worship Chair*.
- E. Shawen Bartol will be Hidenwood's commissioner to the October 19 PEVA meeting at First Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach.
- F. Session agreed to inform the congregation that mask wearing, while not mandatory, is strongly encouraged. Rev. Whitehead will ask Barbara Adams to put such a notice in *News You Can Use*.

VI. MEMORIAL FUND COMMITTEE Gay Huffman
The MFC has a balance of \$39,849.00.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

None

VIII. PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Whitehead...

- scheduled staff sit-downs
- is planning the remainder of the year
- will assist in Carol Carpenter's memorial service Saturday, September 25
- will begin pastoral care soon

IX. INFORMATION ABOUT CARE GROUPS

Please keep Charlie Spencer in your prayers.

X. LOOKING AHEAD

- A. Carol Carpenter Memorial Service, Saturday, September 25, 1 pm
- B. Pet Blessing, Saturday, October 2
- C. Property Committee cleanup, Saturday, October 2, after the Pet Blessing
- D. Pumpkins arrive, Sunday, October 10, noon
- E. Pumpkin Festival, Saturday, October 16, 11 am to 4 pm
- F. October Session meeting, Wednesday, October 27, 7 pm

XI. ADJOURNMENT—

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 with a closing prayer by John Vanderhoven.

Andrew P. Whitehead
Moderator

Leslie Brooks
Clerk of Session

Date minutes approved: ___ / ___ / ___

Initialed by: Clerk: _____ Assistant Clerk: _____