

**Hiddenwood Presbyterian Church  
Minutes of Stated Diaconate Meeting  
October 20, 2021**

I. Opening

The Stated Meeting of the Diaconate of Hiddenwood Presbyterian Church was held on October 20, 2021. Ben Norfleet called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Robert Parry opened with a devotional. Motion to approve the minutes from the September meeting by Bill Espich and seconded by Robert Parry. Motion passed.

In attendance:

Robert Parry	Hilary Spencer	Bill Sharkey	Bill Espich
Melanie White	Chris Manry	Jodie Bayne	Ben Norfleet
Rev. Whitehead	Paige Crowther		

Not Present :

Libby Bowman (EX) Gay Huffman (EX) Debbie Carrithers

II. New Business:

None

III. Committee Reports

A. Mission – Bill Espich

The Mission Committee met on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

1. Pumpkins arrived Sunday October 10<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers unloaded 900 pumpkins. Volunteers are working two hour shifts from 12:00 pm to 6:00pm every day until Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>. A pricing tape measure this year has been helpful for volunteers.
2. Fall Festival was October 16<sup>th</sup>. Everything for sale was sold and an estimate of 1000 people in attendance. Many thanks to Misti Stowell, Barbara and Belinda, church staff and the many volunteers. The festival team added some new activities and tweaked some of the old ones to make a day full of fun and family enjoyment. Thank you for the praying Hiddenwood family for good weather- the wind and rain did not arrive until the event was complete and cleaned up.
3. Food and Fellowship and Mission Committees are partnering with THRIVE peninsula to assemble and fill 144 “We Care” food boxes provided by the Food Bank for their distribution on the Peninsula prior to Thanksgiving.
4. The Angel Tree is going to support the Free Methodist (Central African) Congregation. Cash donations from the congregation will go to families for each child to help provide Christmas gifts from the parents. Food Lion gift cards from the Mission Committee will go to each family unit with or without children.
5. Carey and Bill met with representatives of Hiddenwood Elementary School on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and October 18<sup>th</sup> to identify any needs of students and/or

families and then to work on solutions. Planning continues and suggestions are welcomed.

6. Market for Mission gave Denbigh United Presbyterian a bus and 3 car loads of clothing, kitchen and household supplies to be used in their quarterly giveaway garage sales. The items were remnants of 2021 Market for Mission and recent donations. We now have room to begin collecting in earnest for 2022 Market for Mission.
7. Don Kane and Rise Against Hunger (RAH) are preparing for another food packaging event on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Session has approved the use of the facility and a contract with RAH has been signed. Additionally, we have learned that the June packaging event was sent to Nicaragua to be distributed by the RAH In-Country Partner, ORPHANetwork.
8. The Mission Committee continues to look for and will welcome volunteers or ideas for locating volunteers to help with leading Sunday school for the youth in Central African Congregation this fall. Please drop a note to [w.espich@jimmieandbill.us](mailto:w.espich@jimmieandbill.us)

B. Food and Fellowship-Gay Huffman/Paige Crowther

The FF/CC committee met in person in October.

1. Food and Fellowship

1. Our sandwich ministry for the Salvation Army continues weekly.
2. We will be helping Barbara send out Thanksgiving and Christmas cards to homebound members.
3. We are not hosting a Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner this year due to Covid concerns and being cautious.
4. The decoration of Christmas Trees around the church will be on November 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>. Volunteers are welcomed.
5. PORT will be on November 12<sup>th</sup> at First Baptist Church and we will be assisting Port again at St. Stevens in January.

2. Congregational Care

- a. The committee continues to touch base with our Homebound members and members in facilities via calling, visiting, and sending cards.

C. Property - Chris Manry

The Property Committee met on September 7th.

1. Belinda's Report

- a. The new glass door was installed on the Hiden Blvd. side of the building (paid for by the preschool) on 10/7. We have a few leaks in the roof. Belinda is trying to schedule Peninsula Roofing to come out and repair as soon as possible. The fire alarm system part was installed by BFPE on 10/7 and it seems to be working properly. Belinda has gotten an estimate for new flooring in the fellowship hall. We looked at the samples and discussed the need to get a separate estimate for the removal of the existing floor. After we get the complete estimate, we will explore ways to raise the funds. Jimmie Espich is helping with that. We also have two

flood lights out in the parking lot. Chris will replace them as soon as they are purchased.

2. Chris Manry's Report:
  - a. Ken, Neal and I replaced the light bulbs over the choir area in the Sanctuary on 10/7. I repaired and repainted the ceiling in the bathroom behind the Sanctuary. The doors to the dumpster, outside shed and kitchen have all been repainted.
3. Committee Members Report:
  - a. The entire property committee met at the church for a few hours on October 2<sup>nd</sup> for the purpose of trimming shrubs and removing some that had grown out of control. We also spread out some mulch (donated by the Espichs). Several volunteers from the congregation joined us in those efforts. Jimmie and Hilary spent parts of several days the previous week cleaning, pruning, and planting in the courtyard. Many thanks for their efforts. Robert has kept up the mowing and trimming of the lawn.
4. Action Items:

Replace light bulbs in parking lot. Follow up on complete estimate for replacing floor in the Fellowship Hall.
5. Items for Session: None

D. Evangelism & Communications – Melanie White and Ben Norfleet

The Evangelism/Communications Committee met on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

1. The committee continues to support the texting service used to keep members informed.
2. The committee will support the purchase of the Christmas mailing that shares dates of the holiday activities at the church with members and local residents.
3. Plans are being discussed to look into offering webinars next year to members and the local community
4. The committee is also considering offering an end of the year gift to members that can be shared with the community such as car magnets, take a pen & leave a pen or a holiday ornament.
5. 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

- A. Request that Food and Fellowship provide guidelines concerning events at the church that involve food during the pandemic to provide consistency.
- B. Currently planned Advent Activities: 11/28 Handbells Concert; 12/2 Jill Duffield Zoom Class; 12/11 Christmas Tree Lighting at HPC; 12/19 Blue Christmas-informal service for Grief during Holiday Season 12/24 Christmas Eve Services

VI. Rejoicing & Weeping

- A. Prayers for Gay Huffman's Brother, Bill Carpenter, dealing with loss of his wife
- B. Charlie Spencer is home and working on getting stronger.
- C. Prayers for healing and wellness for Rev. Whitehead's brother-in-law, Carlton.
- D. Prayers for all those unknown requests and needs.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, Robert Parry closed the meeting with prayer. Chris Manry motioned to adjourn and it was seconded by Bill Espich. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melanie White, Secretary