

**HIDENWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting**  
**February 23, 2022**

- I. The February 23, 2022 stated Session meeting began at 7:00 pm in McKeithen Hall. Rev. Andrew Whitehead, Pastor/Head of Staff and moderator, established a quorum, welcomed participants, and opened with prayer. Andrew Kirkpatrick gave the opening devotion.

Session Members Present

Leslie Brooks	Ben Mason
Shawen Bartol	Lisa Woessner
Jimmie Espich	Ed Miles
Jessica Kelly	Bette Runyan
Andrew Kirkpatrick	Dana Stowell

Session Members Absent

Beverly McLean

II. SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Jimmie Espich gave a summary of the webinar “Hybrid Churches: Gathering Beyond Worship”, with Christin Kinard, a church communication and marketing professional. Although Hidenwood does not see itself as becoming a hybrid church, the webinar offered several take-aways for consideration:

- How can we connect better with those at home during our digital worship services?
- Who is our congregation missing? What is their need and how can we provide ministry to them?
- How can Hidenwood become more of a “go to them church” and less of a “come to us” church?

For our next meeting. Pastor Whitehead asked us to consider two questions:

- When did you join Hidenwood?
- Why did you join Hidenwood?

III. REPORT OF THE CLERK

A. Action on Minutes

1. Jimmie Espich MOVED to accept the minutes of the January 26, 2022 Stated Meeting. The motion was SECONDED and APPROVED.
2. Jimmie Espich MOVED to accept the minutes of the January 30, 2022 Congregational Meeting, pending the addition of “s” to Leslie Brook in the next to last paragraph. The motion was SECONDED and APPROVED.

B. Clerk’s Report-none

C. Action on Requests-none

D. Communications-

1. The clerk read the draft of a letter Carey Gerstner has written to the congregation explaining why the charter with the Boy Scouts was terminated.

IV. SESSION/DIACONATE LIAISON

Leslie Brooks MOVED to accept the minutes of the February 16, 2022 Diaconate meeting as presented. The motion was SECONDED and APPROVED.

V. SESSION COMMITTEES

- A. Faith Formation..... Jimmie Espich
1. The committee is concerned about the poor sound and projected image quality for programs in McKeithen Hall. Bob Spiker who does the support work on our church’s technical issues has been asked to evaluate the system in McKeithen and make recommendations for improvements.
  2. The Book Lover’s Used Book Sale set up and sale will be June 4-12.
  3. Preschool Director Cathy Huemer expects to be back at work February 22. Chapel is being held in the sanctuary so there is more room for distancing. Registration for 2023 has started.
  4. Carey has hired Elizabeth Six, a CNU student, to work in the nursery and is seeking a second nursery worker.
  5. VBS will be July 18-22 and the curriculum is *Make Waves*.
  6. The Junior Disciples are doing *Fun-Sized Faith*, and John Sims is introducing beginner chimes.
  7. The Middle School Youth collected \$486.00 and canned foods on Souper Bowl Sunday for HPC’s Food Closet.
  8. The Adult Seminar is studying *Give Me a Sign* on the miracles of Jesus. The Lenten study is *Witness at the Cross* by Amy Jill Levine. A study with a creation theme is being considered for after Lent.
  9. The Hidenwood Explorers will visit CNU’s Torggler Art Center February 24, at 10:00.
  10. Two book groups are meeting. The Faith Book group has been reading and discussing books related to social justice issues for about two years. They are considering ways to put their understandings of Jesus’ call into action.
  11. Pickle Ball Ministry: Open for coed play on Monday 5:30-6:30 PM, and for women only on Thursday, 5:30-6:30 PM.
  12. The Spring Hidenwood Community Event will be April 23, 11-3.
- B. Finance..... Ed Miles
1. January was a positive month. Many members pay their yearly pledge during this month, and expenses were manageable.
  2. FSAs have been introduced
  3. At present rates, the church’s mortgage should be paid off in 2027. There is a new, unknown, adjustable rate coming in March.
  4. The church still has a large amount of money in zero interest accounts and one small CD.
- Ed Miles MOVED to increase the church’s credit card limit from \$2000 to \$7500. The motion was APPROVED.
- C. Stewardship..... John Mattern  
No report.
- D. Worship..... Shawen Bartol
1. The Search for Director of Music Ministries has had only a few inquiries from its advertising.

2. Staff and committee has decided that when the church is closed, no services will be conducted due to lack of availability of staff needed for the event.
3. John Sims had six members show up for choir practice on Sunday and is hoping to have the choir sing at the March 6th service.
4. The committee is working with Andrew/staff to plan Lenten Season events: Shawen Bartol MOVED to hold a short Ash Wednesday service at 12:15 in the Chapel and to hold a Maundy Thursday service April 14th tentatively at 7 pm with communion. The motions were APPROVED.

Additionally

- The committee is reaching out to find additional musicians for the Easter service.
- John Sims is working on cleaning up the music room and reorganizing all files. He will be out of town on April 3rd, May 15th & May 22<sup>nd</sup>

Andrew Kirkpatrick MOVED to bring back the friendship registers. Pastor Whitehead spoke to the need to update the registers; he and Barbara Adams are working on this. The motion was APPROVED.

- E. Personnel.....Ben Mason  
No report
- F. Preschool.....Leslie Brooks  
Director Cathy Huemer has returned to work following ankle surgery.  
Registration is open and going well.
- G. Memorial Fund.....Gay Huffman  
The committee will need to find a replacement for Charlie Spencer.

#### VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Using money from the Endowment Fund, the church purchased a defibrillator. Arthur Henderson reported that it will arrive Tuesday, March 8 and training will be conducted that day at 4:00. Interested people should sign up with Lisa Woessner. Arthur will contact the preschool to identify those who will be trained. He also pointed out that signs will need to be placed around the church indicating the location of the defibrillator.
- B. Pastor Andrew reported that locally the daily average of reported COVID cases is 24 and the transmission rate is down 72%. Nevertheless, indoor activities are still risky for vaccinated people and extremely dangerous for unvaccinated individuals.

Andrew Kirkpatrick MOVED to make indoor mask wearing recommended, but not required during worship and other meeting times at the church, while still maintaining safe distances as much as possible. Mask wearing for individuals entering the church during preschool hours will be required. The motion was SECONDED and APPROVED.

#### VII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Jimmie Espich gave an update on the Fellowship Hall Project. Gayle Rauch and John Mattern feel that with the gift from the Preschool, money from the Memorial

Fund, and contributions from members, this project can be funded. With guidance from Joey Ritchie, Belinda has asked for proposals from contractors for abatement and removal of carpet and asbestos tile, air monitoring during abatement, new flooring, window and door replacement, and painting. Hilary Spencer is working to create a 4-6 week opening for the work to follow VBS which ends July 22.

- B. Pastor Andrew has asked the Food and Fellowship Committee to revisit the food policy. Andrew Kirkpatrick MOVED to allow an Easter breakfast to be held in the fellowship hall so that participants can distance. Prior registration is encouraged. The motion was SECONDED and APPROVED.

VIII. PASTOR'S REPORT

- A. Barbara Adams will be on vacation March 1, as it is her father's funeral. Carey Gerstner will be on vacation March 20. Pastor Andrew will be on vacation sometime in March to celebrate his mother's birthday (what a good son!)

In addition, Pastor Andrew...

- B. continues to meet with Worship Committee to plan Lent and Easter
- C. will hold a Visitor Class after worship Sunday, March 20 and encourages officers to come
- D. continues to meet with members, especially homebound
- E. would like to review and update mission and vision statements
- F. proposes to appoint a committee to review committee structure, research alternatives, and suggest changes

IX. INFORMATION ABOUT CARE GROUPS-

None; elders and deacons still don't know who is in their districts

X. LOOKING AHEAD

- A. Hidenwood Explorers, Thursday, February 24, 10 am Mary Torggler Art Center
- B. Ash Wednesday Chapel Service, March 2, 12:15 pm
- C. March 4, 2:00, Charlie Spencer's Memorial Service
- D. Defibrillator Training, Tuesday, March 8, 4 pm
- E. Blood Drive, Tuesday, March 15
- F. Session Meeting, Wednesday, March 23, 7pm

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 with a closing prayer by Dana Stowell.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Andrew P. Whitehead

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leslie Brooks

Date minutes approved: \_\_\_ - / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_

Initialed by: Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_ Assistant Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_