**SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**SESSION STATED MEETING**

**October 17, 2017**

The Session of Second Presbyterian Church met for a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 19, 2017, in Fellowship Hall. After prayer at 5:25pm by Pastor Rev. Dr. Robert Woodruff, Session shared a potluck dinner. RE Martha Powers lead the Session in devotions and, with prayer at 6:00pm, ended devotions and opened the business meeting.

**Present:** *Teaching Elder* Rev. Robert Woodruff, Moderator

*Ruling Elders*: Don Bixby, Pat Gilberto, George Huggins, Kris Johnson, Abel McBride,Ruth Montoya, Martha Powers, Reme Molo, Anita Romero Torres, Anna Torres, John Van Dyke

**Excused:**  Anita Abeyta

**Guests:** Francis and Susie Chang, Youth Leaders; Gloria Montoya, Deacon representative

The Clerk reported that a quorum was present.

Session **VOTED** to approve the agenda.

**YOUTH LEADERS’ REPORT** – Francis and Susie Chang

1. Shane Austin, an inspirational and motivational speaker who focuses on youth, began a five Sunday presentation series on October 15, 2017. The subsequent four presentations will be on October 22, November 12, November 19, and December 10. Lunch is included and there is no cost to attendees.
2. We are planning a Halloween Party for October 29th, at the Chang’s home.
3. We are planning to show a “Wonder” movie.

**DEACONS’ REPORT** - Gloria Montoya

1. Gloria is nearing end of her three-year.
2. Mickey McHugh will be the Deacons’ Moderator for 2018.
3. Items discussed in the Deacons’ October 15, 2017, meeting are:
   1. We used a variety of breads for World Communion on October 1;
   2. There are two communions in November, on the 1st Sunday and on November 26, Christ The King Sunday;
   3. There were 38 attendees of the meal for our home-bound members and friends; all agreed that we had great food;
   4. The Deacons served communion to nine in the Farthest Pew program.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Session **VOTED** to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2017, Session Stated meeting.

**CLERK’S REPORT**

**Correspondence:**

09/20/2017: FROM Charlotte Valdez, Clerk of Session, Embudo Presbyterian Church, Dixon, NM, confirming transfer of membership of Petra Martinez, by Reaffirmation of Faith, effective 07/30/2017.

10/09/2017: TO Associate Stated Clerk, with negative report for the request for the Necrology report for PSF Annual Meeting, Oct 21-22.

10/12/2017: TO Charlotte Valdez, Clerk of Session, Embudo PC, Dixon, NM, acknowledging transfer of membership of Petra Martinez.

10/17/2017: FROM Rev. Woodruff and family, a thank you note to Session for the “Pounding” party.

**Death:** Ambrosio J Ortega, b. 10/26/1927, Chimayo, NM, d.10/08/2017, Albuquerque, NM

**Electronic Vote to Allow Dancing at Special Event**

During the week prior to October 15, 2017, Session **VOTED** via email to allow dancing during the one-time special event of a benefit Salsa Concert, on October 15, 2017, which was held to raise funds for relief of those suffering from recent hurricanes in Puerto Rico.

**PASTOR’S REPORT** - Rev. Rob Woodruff

1. Rev Jaime Quiñones is home after a brief illness. He sends his love and greetings to everyone
2. Rob expressed thanks to the Session for the work they are doing.
3. He has checked on the proposed meeting of Session at Ghost Ranch: off-season (February) rate would still be $75; the favored dates are February 9-10, with the second choice February 2-3; Rob will follow-up with details.
4. Rob presented a prospectus for his Sabbatical;
5. Rob will research the viability of a Leave Committee;
6. The preliminary results of income from the Benefit Concerts for Puerto Rico:
   1. The Salsa even raised about $4,500
   2. The total amount raised is nearing $17,000
   3. There were many great compliments about our Congregation and Church.

**BOOKKEEPERS REPORT** - John Van Dyke

John presented three reports: Income YTD, September spending, and September Accounts. John reported he had no concerns about our financial status, and Session raised no concerns.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Disaster Plan Task Force: Kris Johnson, Abel McBride, Ruth Montoya
   1. The Task Force met with Susan Keil Smith, one of the Presbytery’s resources for Disaster Planning. She was a good resource and provided help about what might be done.
2. Sign in South parking lot, Southwest corner – Building and Grounds, Reme Molo
   1. After discussion, Session deferred consideration, having reached the consensus that an electronic sign not needed, being cost prohibitive with unclear benefits.
3. Family Promise (FP) lease contract
   1. The Group will schedule a meeting;
   2. FP has contracted with a cleaning company;
   3. We need a new push-bar on the J. I. Candelaria south exit door so it will lock;
   4. Pastor Rob will attend a Clergy breakfast that will be held by FP.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Report From the Synod of the Southwest** – Ruth Montoya

**OCTOBER 2017 MEETING OF THE SYNOD OF THE SOUTHWEST**

Commissioner, Solema Newton, and I attended the recent meeting of the Synod of the Southwest in Phoenix, Arizona. I completed three years of chairing the Personnel Committee and have one more year remaining on my term on the committee.

Highlights:

In addition to receiving reports from its officers and committees, we worshiped and broke bread together.

• **Service of Worship and Installation of the Moderator and Moderator Elect**: Mary Beth Culpepper from our Presbytery of Santa Fe, completed her service as Synod moderator. Her successor is Teaching Elder, Rev. Dr. Robert Reno from the Presbytery of Sierra Blanca. The Moderator-Elect is Teaching Elder, Rev. Ray Thomas from the Presbytery of De Cristo.

• **Increase in Per Capita**

The Synod approved the budget for 2018 that includes a Per Capita increase of $2.00. Our current commitment per church member is $34/yr.

Per Capita is a set amount of money per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (USA). Every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the church's system of government, and every Presbyterian is asked to share the expenses associated with the functions of that system. Congregations through our Sessions pay an annual amount of money per church member; this is a combined request from our Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly based on their respective budgets. Per Capita rate is set every two years. A presbytery's per capita rate depends on its geographical location and size, its mission needs and the needs of the respective Synod.

• **Conversation with Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, Director of the Office of Public Witness**

The Office of Public Witness is a branch of the Mission Program Agency's Office of Public Witness, Compassion, Peace and Justice. This agency is the public policy information and advocacy office of the General Assembly. Its task is to advocate and help the church to advocate and translate the church's commitment to justice and peace by writing letters, making phone calls and occasionally testify before Congress. The involvement of the Presbyterian Church helps to clarify moral and ethical issues that impact public policy. The goal is to clarify to people in government what the GA is concerned about, why, and what can be done to respond to these concerns.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. **LiveWire** – George Huggins

LW did not meet since the last report.

**WEBSITE**

1. In the previous week, statistics for our website are:

Unique Visitors – 384

Page Views – 1,285

2. Views of recordings of worship is typically under five.

3. Concerns about copyrights of songs: Should we edit-out hymns, anthems, and guest professional  musicians?

**BUDGET**

Of our $2,074 allocation from the 2017 Budget:

1. 75% has been expended;
2. About $400 was used to pre-pay bulk-rate postage account at Post Office;

a. Monthly newsletter postage is about $30;

3. LW is planning to purchase nine months of Breeze, a Church Information Management System, in November.

**DEMOGRAPHICS COLLECTION**

Please complete and submit the survey of demographics information, on the “Demographics” page of our website. You must login to see the page. Once the survey is validated with some of your submissions, LW will make the survey available on the website without restriction.

1. **Worship and Music** – Anita Romero Torres, Don Bixby
   1. World Communion – was great!
   2. October 8 – The Service of Healing is always welcomed and cherished by many members.
   3. November 5 is All Saints Observation.
   4. October 29 we have a guest preacher the Rev. Hon. Wendell Griffen. Second PC is helping host him. On October 28, from 4-6pm, Rev. Griffen will present “Star Trek and Dr. King in the Age of Trump: A Workshop with Rev. Hon. Wendell Griffen”.
   5. On November 12 we will have Bibles for third graders.
   6. We are very pleased with the great team we have for Worship and Music.
   7. We have Sanctuary enhancements and decorations in place for upcoming observances.
2. **Personnel** – Kris Johnson
   1. We are currently working on the Family Promise lease.
   2. Vacation for Pastor Rob has been approved for November 21-22 and for December 26-31.
   3. **In consideration of Pastor Rob’s leave, Session reached a consensus to move the meeting for November to Monday, November 20.**
3. **Evangelism & Membership** – Pat Gilberto
   1. During worship on October 15, we celebrated the 50-year membership of Dorothy Romero, Aurelia Jimenez, and Adolf and Jessie McCoy. After honoring them during worship we served a celebratory cake in the Fellowship Hall. They were given beautiful pins that Abel McBride arranged to have made from an artist in Santo Domingo. The honorees were very appreciative.
   2. The memorial plaque has been updated. Beverly Chavez will pick it up and place back in its appropriate location.
   3. We continue to talk to potential members, but with so many activities through the Advent season, we will not have a new members class until the new year.
4. **Nominating** – Reme Molo, Martha Powers
   1. The Committee has had its first meeting, and is in a good position to recruit candidates for vacancies in 2018.
5. **Mission** –Anna Torres

Mission Committee met on September 28, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. Members present were Anna Torres, Gloria Mirabal and Martha Powers along with Pastor Rob Woodruff.

I want to update you on the status of the apartment designated for a possible asylum seeker/grantee.   Since our last meeting on September 28, we have had donations of bedding, towels, soaps and shampoos, a bath rug, microwave oven, a small refrigerator and television.  The apartment is basically ready.  Other items we discussed, were a disposable cell phone, (which Gloria Mirabal was going to look into), reading materials, and food.

We will need to compile a list of about 8-10 volunteers from our congregation who are willing to help with the task of actually assisting with housing someone at the church in the near future.  In this way, we can share the responsibility and the burden doesn't fall on just one person.  I am willing to be on this list and would like to know if any of you are willing to be on this list.  As this is new to all of us, we will proceed as best we can to provide a comfortable setting for these asylum seekers/grantees.  If you remember, Justin Remer-Thamert, Executive Director of the NM Faith Coalition for Immigrant Justice, told us the asylum seekers/grantees would only need housing for 2-3 days.  As a volunteer, we would be their direct contact while they are housed at the church.

The next Mission Committee activity will be the annual Halloween Party with Martineztown participants. Martha Powers spearheads this event.

1. **Hospitality** – Martha Powers

October will be a busy month; it began by functioning as the venue for two separate fund raisers for the purchase of generators for Puerto Rico. The response was excellent. All other activities are running smoothly. The congregation and the committee have provided additional items to fit the occasion.

Mr. Gill Miranda donates most of our paper goods.

Special events have included welcoming members, PW birthday offering, a “thank you Pizza” lunch. Thursday, September 21, the Deacons hosted a luncheon for the “home bound” members and their caretakers. On September 24, Sandra Duran Poole and Chad, Willie Chavez family presented a pictorial report on their trips to Turkey.

On October 31, Halloween, Second Presbyterian, San Ignacio Catholic Church, St Paul Lutheran and Martineztown Community will host an evening of fun for the congregation and community with a haunted room, games, costume contest, pizza and soda. Festivities begin at 5:30 PM at San Ignacio Church where families will pick up a collecting bag, if needed, and a map indicating route of safe homes for “Trick or Treat”. Their last stop will be the Multi-purpose Hall for the above activities. Festivities are usually over by 9:30pm. We will appreciate donations of baked goods for the cake walk, school supplies, books, games, new or gently used toys for prizes. Items can be brought to the church any Wednesday morning or on October 31 after 10:00am.

1. **Christian Education** – Anita Abeyta

Christian Ed is off and running!

There are between four and five pre-school - 1st graders. Becky Johnson taught in September and Karla Woodruff and I are teaching this month. It's very exciting to watch them grow and learn about Jesus. Music class is also a fun adventure and with an experienced music teacher, they are not only learning songs but music!

Elementary age, there are between four and five kids. Three kids have moved up to mid school. Lorraine Romero taught in September and Gloria Montoya is teaching this month. The class is a little calmer and the teachers and even the students are enjoying that.

We have decided to combine Mid-high and High school. The students are very close and this seems to work out best for this year. The Mid-high and Highs have prepared a lesson to teach the younger classes. This Sunday, they will teach the class. I think it will be a good experience for all.

Sarah Smith has joined Sunday School as a teacher. I know she will be great and best of all, she's very excited to be part of the team.

The last Sunday in October our service project will be to make Christmas cards for the Deacons.

1. **Building & Grounds** – Abel McBride
   1. Cabinets have been installed in the basement
   2. Kitchen cabinets will be installed this week
   3. A fan was recovered and installed in the Family Promise area
   4. We have been requested to refinish the southwest basement wall
   5. We need younger volunteers to close down the evaporative coolers for the winter season
   6. We visited Embudo Presbyterian Church in Dixon, NM, on Sunday, October 18; PM will work on the 2018 visitation schedule during our regular meeting on October 28
   7. The regular meeting of PM is Saturday, October 28 (last Sat of month; 1st Sat of month is work day)
   8. The sound room on the north side of the Chancel needs attention, and is on our schedule to be worked
   9. None of the Emergency lights work and need to be repaired; we also need new Exit signs
2. **Stewardship & Finance** – Ruth Montoya, John Van Dyke
   1. We are working on announcements and brochures for our Stewardship campaign
   2. We next meet on Tuesday, October 25, 6pm, at Second PC

James Brown, a regular attender to worship, would like to make more connections. He teaches on-line Philosophy. He is working on a degree of Philosophy of Disability.

Session **VOTED** to accept the Committee reports.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Rev. Woodruff at 8:42pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

George T. Huggins