**SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**SESSION STATED MEETING MINUTES**

**January 22, 2019**

Session of Second Presbyterian Church met for a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 22, 2019, in Fellowship Hall. After prayer at 5:20pm by Pastor Robert Woodruff, a potluck dinner was shared. Elder Ella Porragas led us in devotions and opened the business meeting with prayer at 5:50pm.

**Present:** *Pastor,* Rev. Dr. Robert Woodruff, Moderator

*Elders:* Anita Abeyta, Don Bixby, Pat Gilberto, George Huggins, Kris Johnson, Eli Lopez, Abel McBride, Ruth Montoya, Ella Porragas, Anna Torres, John Van Dyke

**Excused:** Reme Molo

**Guests:**

* Francis and Susie Chang, Youth Leaders;
* Lorraine Romero, Deacon representative;
* Lauren LaMonica, PCUSA Young Adult Volunteer (YAV), assigned to Second;
* Willie Chavez and Sandra Duran, Elders-Elect, Class of 2021;
* Nelson Capitan, former moderator of the Presbytery of Santa Fe, to speak on the Doctrine of Discovery, and the repudiation thereof by PCUSA;
* Clarrisa, the resident manager of our apartment dedicated to the transgender asylum program.

The clerk declared a quorum was present.

Session approved the agenda by **UNANIMOUS CONSENT**.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

By **UNANIMOUS CONSENT**, Session approved privilege of the floor to:

Elders-Elect Willie Chavez and Sandra Duran to ask questions and comment on the procedures of the Session regarding their duties;

Nelson Capitan, former moderator of the Presbytery of Santa Fe and Ruling Eder from Laguna United Presbyterian Church, to speak on the Doctrine of Discovery, and the repudiation thereof by PCUSA;

Clarrisa, the resident manager of our apartment dedicated to the transgender asylum program, to provide and update on the TransLatin@ Coalition.

**ORDER OF THE DAY**

**DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY** – Nelson Capitan

The Clerk noted that there is background on the Doctrine of Discovery (DD) under **OLD BUSINESS** of the agenda.

Elder Capitan made the following remarks:

1. The PCUSA repudiation document of the DD is very long. June Lorenzo, of the Laguna Church, made the presentation at GA, and was the primary author of the repudiation document.
2. The earliest basis of the DD in Christian doctrine is the Papal Bull issued in May 1493, stating that exclusive right of lands encountered by Columbus and other European explorers, belongs to the country of the explorer. The DD, and its effects on legal decisions on land ownership, continues to the current day.
3. Repudiation processes and actions will be different in the several parts and regions of the PCUSA.
4. E.g., there is a current decision in the Navajo Nation regarding the educational gap between the general population and Navajo students that is grounded in the DD.
5. Our approach as Christians should be to ask ourselves what would God tell us to do, and what would Jesus do?
6. The PSF, thru the Mission Networking Committee, has decided to continue conversations on the DD. How can we converse and really know about culture and the people that our actions have affected?
7. I recommend that yes, the Session should repudiate the DD.
8. We as Christians need to understand the prejudices and racism that existed against First Nations communities, much of it based in the DD, which disallowed First Nations from owning the land on which they were born and lived.
9. If a church or two in the PSF repudiated the DD, other congregations would notice.
10. We need to educate and inform our congregations about the DD, which could begin with a conversation about how we would do that.
11. It is important to understand how the establishment of a Christian Doctrine has adversely impacted native peoples in all continents, how it is still acting, and how we can help generations to come. There have been some cultures that try to look ahead 10,000 years!!!

**TRANSGENDER ASYLEE REPORT** – Clarrisa

The Session welcomed Clarrisa, and introduced ourselves to her.

Clarrisa update us on the status the transgender asylee program, housed in the apartment of the J. I. Candelaria wing:

1. To date, we have housed and assisted 12 asylees or asylum seekers.
2. The process begins by us receiving notification from ICE of the release of an asylee. We provide hygiene items, housing and transportation, notify other networks of the release(s), and decide what would be best to do with each released woman.
3. -Some- funds are available to support each asylee.
4. The might need transportation, including airline reservations, to join their sponsor, family, or friend anywhere in the US. Sometimes their family provides expenses support.
5. We provide a smart-phone for calling and for establishing and maintaining connections and communications with friends and family.
6. The last group was four women that were here for almost a week. Some women arrive with nothing other than what they are wearing.
7. Clarrisa has a large family in Mexico that can provide some support. Some women have no options other than what we could provide. Each story and situation is different. There are many instances of psychological and physical abuses. Some asylum-seekers must travel for a long time over lengthy distances with great difficulty to arrive at the border and ask for asylum.

**EPIC (Youth) REPORT** – Francis and Susie Chang

1. EPIC is sponsoring a soup drive that will culminate on February 3 - Super Bowl Sunday. To encourage people to bring donations of canned soup or Ramen noodles, we will be offering bowls of soup - a Chinese concoction - during the fellowship hour after church on Sunday, January 27. The donations will be taken to the Storehouse.
2. EPIC attended a Lady Lobo game at the Pit on Saturday, January 12. Isaac Ploof was awarded a Bending Over Backwards (BOB) Award for his generosity while attending the Lobo game.
3. We will partner with First Church on the morning of Saturday, February 2, to box up canned goods for Silver Horizons, a non-profit organization that caters to the needs of hungry senior citizens.
4. Our first payment to the Presbytery of Santa Fe for Triennium is scheduled for February 3. This payment for each youth is $175.00. For six payments the total is $1,050. There are three more payments after that: March 3, April 7, May 5.

**DEACONS’ REPORT** – Lorraine Romero

1. The Vice Moderator of the Board is Louella Gurulé.
2. Deacons will continue to rotate our representation to the monthly Session meetings.
3. Farthest Pew continues to go well, without any significant change.
4. We will coordinate purchase of a new communion platter to replace the broken one, and Worship has volunteered to pay for the purchase.
5. The Board will decide what to do with the call list, to make it static or rotate it among the Deacons.
6. The Sandia Mountain Retreat will be on Saturday March 23, 2019, 10am-2pm, in Fellowship Hall.

**YAV UPDATE** – Lauren LaMonica

1. First, I would like to give a brief summary of my time spent back home for the holidays. It was amazing! Hardly any sibling arguing which is always great. Got to let a lot of the members in my home congregation know what I have been up to. I had the privilege of watching the nephews for a total of a week and half. All in all, it was great to be back home but I did miss here, my second home. I received the disappointing news that I did not have enough collegiate credits to be eligible for the Children’s Youth Ministries Theological program (CYMT). That being said I have decided to stay in New Mexico for another year going back to school, working with Menaul School and any other part time job that comes my way. SUPER STOKED about it!!!!
2. Saturday-Sunday (Jan 5-6)

* YAV retreat
* letting us readjust to the intentional community
* reflection on the past few months and expressing concerns and hopes for the next few months
* Santa Fe Museum of Indian Arts and Culture
* A lot of reconnecting
* worship at El Buen Pastor
* El Sanctuario de Chimayó

1. This is usually how my weeks line up. There might be additional meetings on any day:

* **ALL MONDAYS ARE YAV COMMUNITY DAYS** - this is where as a group we go and explore different parts of New Mexico and learn about the history and culture. It is an intentional time together that we all observe and reserve (Monday is for sure the only day I will not be able to commit to anything besides the YAV program). We are now in charge in planning some of our community days, and we are seeking to engage in more social justice programs and new experiences. But if we have a later start and there’s a meeting I hope to be there.
* Tuesdays will mostly consist of meetings with Rob, Luke Rembold (director of ABQ YAV program), my spiritual director, and/or the congregation.
* Wednesdays will consist of bible study (Ecclesiastics), and if there are any suggestions about food banks/pantries that would be greatly appreciated.
* Thursdays will be the Menaul Historical Library.
* Everyday besides Mondays I will coach basketball Practice for about an hour and half , which counts as volunteer hours.
* Fridays are YAV off days, but if there is a meeting or extra stuff going on at the church I will try and be as available as possible.
* Saturdays I am usually available for all events at Second.
* Sundays I will be teaching Sunday School, occasionally doing a moment for mission, children’s moment or Lay reader.

1. Saturday-Monday (Jan 26-28)

* The YAVs will be in Farmington, NM, this weekend, to acquaint ourselves with churches in the area, and the challenges of living in the Four Corners region.

What I am focusing on for the next seven months here is children education, worship and music, EPIC, vocational discernment, journaling (not my strong suite) and also forming stronger connections with the Second community.

Session **VOTED** to approve the minutes of the 12/18/2018 Session Stated meeting.

**CLERK’S REPORT**

1. **Annual Activities yet to be Done/Scheduled:**
   1. Report of annual financial review or audit (G-3.0113)
   2. Approve the annual budget [G-3.0113, G-3.0205].
   3. Set dates, or have Session approve, receiving special offering for the following year. (Joy Gift, One Great Hour of Sharing, Souper Bowl, etc.)
   4. Elect officers for 2019: Clerk of Session, treasurer [G-3.0104, G-3.0205]; officers of the Corporation.
   5. Agree to Elders of The Month for Feb 2019 – Jan 2020
2. **Correspondence:**
   1. 12/20/2018 – Signed lease agreement with Family Promise as authorized by Session.
   2. 01/16/2019 – **FROM** Associate Stated Clerk of PSF: Requesting 2019 Church Information form, due ASAP; Session Annual Statistical Report, due 02/14/2019; Pastor Terms of Call for 2019, due 04/15/2019.
   3. 01/16/2019 – **TO** PSF Commission On Ministry: transmitting 2019 Parish Associate Covenant with Rev. Huggins and requesting COM’s review and approval.
   4. 01/17/2019 – **FROM** Pastor, and Elder Anna Torres: Changes to our insurance policy have been confirmed with an additional premium cost of $166 (vs quote of $181).
   5. 01/20/2019 – **FROM** Marty Martinez: requesting actions the Clerk should take when receiving a written letter from a member.
   6. 01/21/2019 – **TO** Marty Martinez: summarizing actions that I as Clerk would take when I received a written letter from a member.
   7. 01/22/2019 – **FROM** Camino de Vida: expressing thanks for donation of $1,000.
3. **Annual Reports:** Deadline is Noon, Tuesday, January 29, 2019, to provide formatting, review, printing, to have reports available a week prior to Annual Congregational Meeting.

**ELDERS OF THE MONTH**

Session agreed to the following being Elders of the Month for the indicated month:

Feb – Abel McBride

Mar – Anita Abeyta

Apr – Anna Torres

May – Pat Gilberto

Jun – Eli Lopez

Jul

Aug

Sep

Oct – Don Bixby

Nov

Dec

Jan 2020

**PASTOR’S REPORT** – Rev. Robert Woodruff

1. This coming Sunday is the closest to the 130th birthday of our Congregation. I will ask Karmen to play Happy Birthday!
2. I am very pleased that the Young Adults group is doing very well and blessing all the participants.
3. We recently had David Poole to lead music at worship. I am very appreciative of his energy and enthusiasm shown to the congregation and to the youth and children!

**BOOKKEEPERS REPORT** – John Van Dyke (and Stewardship/Finance report)

John presented and discussed the following four reports:

1. Pledge progress for 2019
2. 2018 Spending December Accounts
3. 2018 Non-Budget Activity through December
4. Income January 1-December 31, 2018

Session **VOTED** to approve the following 2019 Special Offerings:

1. ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING - APRIL 28, 2019

Offering provides relief to those affected by disasters, food for the hungry and support toward the self-development of poor and oppressed communities.

1. PENTECOST OFFERING - JUNE 9, 2019

40% retained by our congregation for local programs focused on children at risk and development of youth and young adults.

1. PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS - OCTOBER 6, 2019

25% retained by our congregation to invest in local responses to injustice and violence.

1. CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING - DECEMBER 22, 2019

Provides financial assistance to individuals and families who have dedicated their lives to the church, and supports leadership development and education for students attending Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

YEAR-END STATEMENTS: Our goal for mailing is by January 28, 2019.

We will continue to try to identify at least two additional Counters for 2019.

Steve Montoya and Randall Korver-Glenn have volunteered to review our financial procedures for 2017.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Public Address system Extension:** Marty Martinez has offered to find resources for additional inputs/outputs to cover the Fellowship Hall. During the 08/14/2018 Session Stated Meeting, Session appointed a committee of persons from LiveWire, Worship, and Building & Grounds to begin the process, possibly meeting with Marty. The persons are George Huggins, Reme Molo, Kris Johnson and Abel McBride (Convener).
   1. The previously acquired PA system has been returned to the distributor.
   2. Karmen Van Dyke has met with a sound consultant. We will meet with Karmen next month to review the information she has and determine next steps. We should be able to get a discount.
2. **Inform First Nations (FN) in New Mexico (NM of the PCUSA Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery (DD):**
   1. During the October 2018 Stated Meeting we were introduced to the DD.
   2. Recommendations of GA directed towards Sessions:
      1. *(1) Urge the session of each congregation, as well as each mid council, COTE-member seminaries, Presbyterian Women’s groups, and other organizations to confess their complicity and repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery.*
      2. *(17) Urge the session of each congregation—as well as each mid council, COTE-member seminaries, Presbyterian Women’s groups, and national church agency—to review the existing study resources on the Doctrine of Discovery (posted on the Facing Racism website: https://facing- racism.pcusa.org/item/41901/), and to lift up histories of Indigenous peoples and current issues facing Indigenous peoples.*
3. **Session Retreat**
   1. The retreat is scheduled for February 1-2, 2019, in Casa del Sol, Ghost Ranch.
   2. Unable to attend: Parish Associate Rev. Kay Huggins, YAV Lauren LaMonica, Elders Anita Abeyta and Willie Chavez.
   3. Housing and food arrangements.
      1. We again will be staying in Casa del Sol.
      2. Food/meals: Fri – brown-bag lunch; Ruth will cater and Don will deliver!!! Ella will bring salad. Lauren will make dessert and give to (someone) deliver. Sat – breakfast, Eli & Abel, Kris will help prepare. Don will bring coffee. Abiquiu Inn for lunch.
   4. Program/activities.
      1. We can expect to hold one Session Special Meeting, especially to consider the proposed budget for 2019.
      2. We will continue to study the Doctrine of Discovery and the repudiation by the PCUSA, and consider what actions to take.
      3. Rob will email writing assignments to each of us that he wants returned to him.
      4. There will be time for devotions, prayer, and reflection.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. **Evangelism & Membership** – Pat Gilberto
   1. We will meet in February, 2019, to review possible new members.
   2. Soon in 2019 we will Honor members of our congregation who have been members for 50 years or more.
2. **Christian Education** – Anita Abeyta
   1. We recently held Spiritual Development training, done by Rev. Kay, which included theology for church school teachers. The training was well attended and well received.
   2. We continue to use Teach with Love.
   3. We have had concern about unknown people entering to visit Clarrisa during Sunday School.
   4. We all have and do our own Mission.
   5. We have around nine Mid-Hi/High youth. In the Fall of 2019 we might have a dozen.
3. **Building & Grounds** – Abel McBride
   1. The Committee has had to use TLC on the heaters thru 2018. We are certain they will need to be replaced in 2019.
   2. Water to the upstairs of the J. I. Candelaria Wing is a problem. There are some old pipes that have been cut and filled with concrete. Our custodian is helping to trace the pipe.
   3. There have been some evaporative coolers donated to the church, but we need to transport them to here. Two of the coolers are higher capacity. Our plans are to transport them on Saturday and store them in the outside storage container.
   4. One of our Handicap signs were broken, apparently by being run over with a vehicle. It will need to be replaced.
   5. We are planning to hold a King’s baby tamale dinner on Sunday, February 3, 2019.
4. **Worship and Music** – Don Bixby

**Date of Meeting: Monday, January 7, 10:00 AM**

**In Attendance:** Anita Torres, Anita Abeyta, Lauren Lamonica, Rob Woodruff, Kay Huggins, Bev Chavez, Mickey McHugh, Solema Newton, Don Bixby

**Recalling:**

The Advent theme of the Old Testament Prophets and the scripts and logistical arrangements led by Rev. Kay were celebrated. The families involved in the candle lighting were really engaged and took ownership of their parts in the worship service.

December 16 caroling after service organized by Nancy Montoya and Marie Kenny was enjoyed by the carolers and particularly by the hosts who express deep appreciation.

**December 24** - Christmas Eve, the candle crèche was well received though some thought our sanctuary not dark enough while others found the service moving, and thought it should be repeated. Exit through both doors went well though still took longer than expected. Next year we should print more verses to *Silent Night* and perhaps some other carols since the crowd got to *Jingle Bells* fairly early on.

**December 30** - Fifth Sunday Rev. Jamie Martinez provided a warm and cohesive leadership to this more informal service, VFTP well done by Anna Torres in the absence of Jack, who was ill.

**January 6** Epiphany - Had Latin American theme with Lay Leader Art Trujillo and Ushers Karla, Val, Carlos Woodruff.

**January 13** Rob - Baptism of the Lord, LL Carlos Woodruff, CM- Becky Johnson, Ushers Bob and Trancito Romero

**January 20** Rob - Race Relations/Justice emphasis, LL Pat Gilberto, CM-Suggested Elizabeth Korver-Glenn who has expressed willingness and is professionally grounded in justice and race issues, Ushers Frank and Ruth Ann Salazar, Esther Griego speaking about the Health Securities Act in Fellowship Hall after service.

**Other Old Business:**

* Proposed Usher Policy changes approved by Session and posted in the Narthex near the candle lighters.
* Proposed Communion Schedule 2019 approved by Session and shared with Deacons
* Discussion of Lauren to provide a monthly children’s moment. She will be in Kay’s orientation of Sunday School teachers this week and perhaps also meet with Becky Johnson or others of the regular presenters for discussion and support. Suggested February 17 for her next CM assignment.

**Looking Ahead:**

**January 23 -** Unity of Prayer Service with Father Raymond Ratari at San Ignacio Roman Catholic Church will include opening at San Ignacio with a procession to Second for a prayer service in the sanctuary.

**January 27 –** Kay in the Pulpit, LL Ernestina Velasco, CM-Marie Kenny, Ushers Ella and Sam Porragas

**February 3** Rob - Tough Love (1 Corinthians 13 & Luke 4: 21-30), First Sunday Communion, LL Lauren, TBD, CM-TBD, Ushers TBD

**February 10** Deep Love (Luke 5: 1-11)

**February 17** Humble Love (Luke 6: 17-26) Beatitudes

**February 24** Enemy Love (Luke 6: 27-38)

**March 3** Transfiguration Sunday, First Sunday Communion

**Other New Business:**

**Planning Survey** Karmen presented a planning survey to help develop the worship and music programs and the budget to support those programs. The goal of the survey is to try to determine if our worship aims are evolving, and if so, how. These will be completed and returned to Karmen this week.

**Summer Camp** The idea was briefly discussed about developing a summer program at Second based on worship, including music, banners, and other crafts, etc., doing a “worship” camp and not just “music”.

**Asylum Seekers’ Shelter -** In a project approved by the Session after months of prayer and discussion, we have entered into a MOU with Faith Coalition for Immigrant Justice and TransLatin@ Coalition. The apartment in the Candelaria Wing is now home to Clarissa who arrived on Christmas Eve. She will provide onsite hospitality to transgender women who are released from the Cibola Immigrant Detention Center, Milan, NM. They are awaiting transportation to their sponsors, usually relatives in other parts of the country. The discussion centered on the introduction of Clarissa to the congregation and communication of the details of this important and exciting mission project.

**Dates:** Next Committee Meeting January 21st 10 am.

**Adjournment**

1. **Stewardship & Finance** – Ruth Montoya, John Van Dyke (See above in Bookkeeper’s report.)
2. **Nominating** – Pat Gilberto
3. The Committee met on Tuesday, December 18, at 4:30 pm. Persons in attendance were Orlando Duran and Pat Gilberto.
4. We are still in need of another deacon. We have spoken to several individuals, some of whom had already been contacted by Reme. So far, no one has come forward.
5. **LiveWire** – George Huggins
   1. Pictorial Directory – We have received and are in the process of distributing 66 directories to those families with their picture in the directory. We have an additional 50 free directories.
   2. 2018 Budget - LiveWire obligated $1,983 of its $2,067 budget for 2018, or 96%.
   3. 2019 Budget - LiveWire obligated $66 of its $1,669 budget for 2019, or 4%.
   4. A new retractable projector screen has been acquired for $89.99 and is awaiting installation.
   5. Statistical snapshot from Breeze:
      1. Members: 245
      2. Female Members: 159
      3. Male Members: 86
      4. Baptized Members: 46
      5. Friends: 99
      6. Regular Attenders: 37
      7. Mbrs 80-89 y/o: 7
      8. Mbrs Over 90 y/o: 10
      9. Mbrs for 50-59 yrs: 11
      10. Mbrs for 60-69 yrs: 5
      11. Mbrs for 70-79 yrs: 4
      12. Mbrs 80 yrs or more: 1
      13. 2018 Deaths: 4
      14. 2018 Losses: 13
      15. 2018 Gains: 11
   6. Deadline for February newsletter submission is Noon, Friday, January 25.
   7. Second’s website home page is updated weekly. It -has- current events.
   8. Worship videos can be used for anyone that misses any part of worship, e.g., Joys and Concerns, and Announcements.
6. **Hospitality** – Eli Lopez, Ella Porragas
   1. Our Sign-up sheet has produced a couple of folk to help.
   2. What are the Committee’s responsibilities during a wedding?
   3. Why do we have a sign that states “Do not unplug the coffee pot.”? Because people unplug the coffee pot.
7. **Personnel** – Kris Johnson

Session **VOTED** to approve Continuing Education on February 4-7, 2019; and Vacation on March 2-3, 2019, and March 11-14, 2019, for Pastor Rob.

1. **Mission** –Anna Torres

Mission Committee met on Friday, January 11 at 11:30 a.m. Those in attendance were Pastor Rob, Martha Powers, Gloria Mirabal and Anna Torres.

* + - 1. Discussed hosting asylees in upstairs apartment and any issues and needs. We provided a vacuum cleaner and clothing. The plumbing in the bathtub is being addressed by Abel McBride. Also discussed Justin Remer-Thamert’s suggestion that members of the Mission Committee install an application on their Smart Phones called SIGNAL. This app will alert us as to who is being released from Cibola and their needs such as transportation, housing, meals, etc. Anna Torres has agreed to have this app on her phone.

Committee discussed providing a training or orientation on transgender asylees released from Cibola for volunteers wanting to help with driving, hosting, shopping, etc.

Pastor Rob offered to do a Minute for Mission on our hosting and introducing Clarissa to the congregation on Sunday, January 13.

1. Committee discussed the possibility of a pulpit exchange by our partner church in Matanzas, Cuba, and Second. Pastor Rob suggested that at minimum, we can have Ary and Beidy come to Second even if Pastor Rob and family do not go to Matanzas. Pastor Rob will be communicating with Ary and Beidy on this.
   1. *PSF planning Nov trip to Cuba*
2. Project Share will continue in February and on alternating month.
3. WINGS- Sign-up sheet will be distributed during Session meeting for this calendar year. WINGS is held on the second and fourth Monday evening of each month. Martha Powers will continue to open the church building for the first meeting of each month. An Elder will sign-up for the last meeting of each month.
4. Pastor Rob mentioned that the Guatemala trip may still be held in June. Martha Powers is considering participating.
5. The Martineztown Food Pantry ended in December. Mission Committee discussed honoring Brad and Michael with a reception at Second Presbyterian Church in the near future.

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

John Van Dyke asked that vouchers are intentionally a half-page for ease of handling.

**CONGREGATIONAL SHARING**

Last Sunday of the month, 12/30/2018 – Minute for Mission will be presented by the Committee of the Elder-of-Month (Jan: Mission – Anna Torres).

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business and no objection to adjournment, we dismissed ourselves by singing a Psalm at 9:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

George T. Huggins, Clerk of Session