

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION SPECIAL MEETING
April 14, 2020
MINUTES

Because of our concern about spreading COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and the Governor's orders not to congregate, no one is meeting in person, and we are all meeting via video-conferencing (Zoom). We do not have provisions in our Bylaws or in our operations manual that define or provide guidelines for audio or video-conferencing meetings. We have set aside the Bylaws until we can provide for video-conferencing. We are following the basic guideline that everyone must be able to hear everyone else and be able to speak and be heard by everyone.

We have not conducted in-person corporate worship since Sunday, March 8.

This Special Meeting of Session was opened with prayer by Pastor Rob at 5:37pm. Rob explained we will continue to follow the format of our recent Special meetings.

DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

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

Elders: James Bencomo, Sandra Duran, Allan Holmquist, George Huggins, Kris Johnson, Randall Korver-Glenn, Eli Lopez, Abel McBride, Mickey McHugh, Steve Montoya, Ella Porragas, Anna Torres

Guests:

- Lynn Gatewood, Paying Treasurer;
- Chad Poole, Bookkeeper;
- Reina Bencomo, EPIC/Youth Rep;
- Bev and Reme Molo, Deacon Representatives;
- Francis & Susi Chang - EPIC.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Session **VOTED** to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Session **VOTED** to approve the following minutes:

- 1) Stated Meeting 02/18/2020
- 2) Special Meeting 02/29/2020
- 3) Special Meeting 03/17/2020
- 4) Stated Meeting 03/24/2020
- 5) Special Meeting 03/31/2020
- 6) Special Meeting 04/07/2020, correcting the spelling of "porch" on page 3.

CLERK'S REPORT

- a. A friend of the congregation, and seasonal attender, Ray Brown, died on 04/10/2020.

BOOKKEEPER – Chad Poole

- a. It's still early in the month to determine any giving trends in April.
- b. Our deposit on April 9th was corrected by the bank.
- c. Other churches in the Presbytery have expressed a desire to contribute to the fee for the Mariachi's that played in the Easter joint streaming worship service.

DEACONS – Bev and Reme Molo

From Deacon Lorraine Romero:

"All the Lilies were dispensed by Don Bixby, Allen and myself. I took Carol Lopez theirs and Tessie was fixing food for a small family gathering. Carla Drake took a Lily to the Santillanes family, Clarabelle took Ester Bernard and someone else (I can't remember who). We all made calls to the congregation on Saturday to let the folks know they could get the Easter Service on the web and wish them a blessed Easter and inform them of Ray Brown's passing. Cards continue to be sent out to our Furthest Pew Members by the Deacons. Lorraine"

1. Many Deacons mailed out Furthest Pew Easter Cards, and communicated with assigned list members.
2. Deacon Bev Molo mailed out printed Easter bulletins to about a dozen people.
3. Anything Deacon Bev gets thru email, is printed and mailed via USPS to someone.
4. The Deacons sent "thinking of you" post cards to -almost- all of congregation for Easter, with a scripture reference.
5. Many recipients of the communications are appreciative, but some feel isolated without a physical in-person church meeting.
6. Yvonne Gallegos has suggested that the magnetic cards of the Good Shepherd our chancel window, be sent to everyone. Yvonne will underwrite the cards and postage and the Deacons will send the cards.
7. Elder George Huggins offered to orient the Deacons to videoconferencing via Zoom. Bev and Reme will check with Lorraine and get back to George. George reminded them that if a Deacon did not have access to internet, they can participate with a normal phone call.

EPIC – Susie and Francis Chang, and Reina Bencomo

1. Susie and Francis are trying to stay in touch with EPIC members, and are very pleased that feedback from EPIC indicates success!
2. We are planning to try a drop-in/drive-in interview with EPIC members, record it, and send it to the rest of EPIC.
3. They distributed a video, today, that was less than they hoped for.
4. We are constructing a "play" kit that contains, e.g., balloons.
5. We are trying and using -whatever- activity to keep EPIC members connected.
6. One possibility would be for EPIC to meet via Zoom.
7. Reina has an Instagram group, and has received 3-4 responses from everyone in EPIC.
8. Susie has an Instagram account but unused; Reina will help Susie.

9. Reina participates in her school from 9am to 2pm via Zoom. Not every class meets every day. She has received a monthly schedule for school.
10. EPIC members have been calling various members in the congregation.
11. Sixth-graders are usually joined to EPIC in the fall, but we are including them in our activities, now, which is a good time to initiate them.

MEETING ITEMS

1. Temporary Worship

- a. PSF Collaborative streaming Sunday morning – Pastor Rob
 - i. Thu/Fri/Sun – One feedback to the Presbytery’s worship leadership team, is that during the Maundy Thursday worship, we weren’t sure when to wash hands and take communion. Our Good Friday service was amazing, and indicates a high level of collaboration among the worship leaders of the Presbytery.
 - ii. Our Presbytery seems to be the only Presbytery collaborating on worship services. Other Presbyteries are asking about it.
 - iii. We don’t know how to overcome the non-participation by members and friends without any internet. We are pleased that relatives are helping some.
 - iv. Next Sunday, April 19, is Easter celebration (Joke Sunday). Earth Day will be observed after that. Mothers’ Day will have an emphasis on Women in leadership rolls and May 17 will focus on graduates. We will, include and involve as many graduates as possible.
 - v. Everyone was pleased to see the Mariachis play in the Easter service!
 - vi. For Presbytery worship leaders: more might be willing to participate if there was a limited target audience, e.g., by church for future meetings. We are Fools For Christ in our own congregation. Many attendees of the Maundy Thursday service were audio-only, and we couldn’t tell if it was because they had no video, or were just shy and hesitant.
 - vii. Rev. Quiñones was very pleased and honored to pronounce the Benediction. It was good for us at Second to hear his nice, soothing voice.
 - viii. During the Easter worship service, as we passed an hour, the voices got out of sync. The recorded session does not have the out-of-sync voice problem. We found out that YouTube provides reserved bandwidth for only an hour.

2. Ongoing Outreach and Connectivity

- a. Adult Choir – Karmen Van Dyke, our director of Music, will play in the joint worship on Sunday, possibly via a Zoom meeting.
- b. Children’s Choir – Director Deb Eisenhower is keeping in touch with the members.
- c. LiveWire member Alicia Montoya will have a proposal for an on-going inspirational communication next meeting.
- d. We are scheduled to support the feeding program via Project Share at St. Martin’s on April 25. Martha Powers will buy chicken, and Anna Torres will purchase other essentials. The food will be delivered to St. Martin’s but we will not stay and work. As of now, we have

enough volunteers to do the cooking. We will ask them to deliver the food straight to St. Martins, and stay in or near their car.

- e. Discussion email group – Elder McBride has stopped going to the refrigerator, as every time he does, it asks him “What do you want now?” He was talking with a spider and discovered it was a web browser.

Session **VOTED** to authorize “SecondPres Fellowship” as an email discussion group, and for Livewire to configure it and populate with members, with the intent of allowing as many members and friends as possible with communicating with each other.

- f. Sunday School – Anita Abeyta distributed a video.
- g. Daily Devotions – Rev. Kay continues to produce for each week day.
- h. Wednesday Bible Study – Rev. Kay continues the study of I Corinthians.

3. Budget/Offering Considerations

- a. Presbyterian Foundation online giving – Email confirmation was received, today, from the Presbyterian Foundation (PF). You can go to PF online access and can select Second PC for giving. Livewire will embed the link onto Second’s website ASAP.
- b. Board of Pension (BOP) dues waiver
 - i. Elder Huggins called the BOP and requested the waiver. He will provide an update when he is notified by the BOP review board. He will wait to early next week before a follow-up, if he has not heard anything.
 - ii. Our Bank of America portal was used to submit a payroll protection plan (PPP) application. Elder Korver-Glenn is working on payroll numbers. It appears we will get “loan payments forgiveness” in form of payment waivers. It will take about a week to get the numbers back. We will work with the bank to determine when the eight-week window starts. We are required to track how funds are spent.
- c. EFTs – There is one in process that might come thru on Wednesday. We count six families still interested in establishing EFT giving or are working to get it established.
- d. Mail-in giving – Bev Chavez and Lynn Gatewood are going to the Post Office on Wednesday to rent a box. They will provide the information to Rob and sent out via the Announcements email group. The PO Box is intended to be USPS check mail-in only, not for general mail to Second. The lease will be for six months, cost \$144 for the six months, and will provide a box that is 11” x 5.5”
- e. Counters – The counters are using health safety equipment. The funds are placed in the lock box, one for checks one for cash. We are maintaining as much distance as possible when the counters are in the office. A possibility of providing more space is to use our laptop and do the counting in Fellowship Hall.

4. Other Considerations

- a. How long should we prepare for self-isolation to last? – We should prepare for the worst and hope for the best. Enforced or voluntary isolation could last a long time. One of last things to be allowed will probably be large group gatherings. One possibility would be to request permission from Menaul School to worship in their park to allow for distancing.

- b. Should we have our own, separate worship? – We could use the Presbytery’s collaborative model of worship, beginning maybe May 17, that would be a Second-only videoconference worship. We are planning a virtual meeting with the Worship and Music Committee to find ways to do a Second-only worship service.
- c. TransAsylee apartment and project – Elder James Bencomo reports there was an incidence of attempted break-in last week that resulted in limited, minor damage to our building. The person was scared off by the apartment residents. He probably scaled the fence over the gate to the north parking lot. Some of the chain link fence was broken and was quickly fixed by our custodian. Our custodian had confronted the probable person the day before the incidence. The person is described as having personal challenges.
- d. Lilies – Elder Allan Holmquist reported we had 30 ordered and unfortunately, we had more than one list of Lily requests. There were some who paid and did not get a Lily. Palms were distributed w the Lilies. A picture of the Lilies in front of the “2020 Year of Kindness” bulletin board in Fellowship Hall was distributed by Pastor Rob. We will follow-up with a letter.

Next meeting, Tuesday, April 21, 2020, 5:30pm, Session Stated Meeting, via Zoom videoconferencing.

ADJOURN WITH PRAYER

We adjourned ourselves at 7:27pm by corporately praying the Lord’s prayer.

Respectively submitted,

George T Huggins, Clerk of Session