

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SESSION STATED MEETING
April 21, 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.

After sharing joys and concerns, Pastor Rob Woodruff opened the meeting with prayer at 5:45pm.

DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

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

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

Excused: Elder Sandra Duran

Guests:

- Lynn Gatewood, Paying Treasurer;
- Chad Poole, Bookkeeper;
- Reina Bencomo, EPIC/Youth Rep;
- Bev and Reme Molo, Deacon Representatives;
- Francis & Susi Chang – EPIC;
- Rev. Kay Huggins, Parish Associate;
- Karmen Van Dyke, Music Director.

Session **VOTED** to approve privilege of the floor to Karmen Van Dyke, Music Director, to ask questions and provide input to relevant topics.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Session **VOTED** to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Session **VOTED** to approve the minutes of the Session Special Meeting of 04/14/2020.

BOOKKEEPER – Chad Poole

- a. April giving to-date indicates we are falling behind on income. There was a deposit made on 04/20/2020 of approximately \$5,000.

DEACONS – Bev and Reme Molo

1. We are reviewing and updating our congregation assignment lists. There are a few members that do not have an assigned Deacon.
2. Bev and Reme updated the Session with the status of several members and friends of the congregation.
3. We are not using in-person communications.
4. We are planning a Zoom meeting, although some Deacons have older computers, or no internet service, and will be audio-only via their phone.

EPIC – Susie & Francis Chang; Reina Bencomo

1. We began interviews with members of EPIC, but suspended them when concerns over health and distance safety were expressed.
2. We are planning a Friday evening Zoom meeting at 6:30pm.

MEETING ITEMS

1. Temporary Worship

- a. PSF Collaborative streaming Sunday morning
 - i. Sunday's virtual worship will focus on Earth Day. Rev. Andrew Black, Parish Associate of First PC, Santa Fe, will preach. Pastor Rob will pray the prayers of people, including prayers for the families and friends of two previous members of St. Andrew PC, who were victims of the recent shootings in Canada. The congregation is mourning the loss.
 - ii. Mothers' Day, May 10, will have a focus on the Gifts of Women.
 - iii. May 17 will be graduates day. We will honor them and ask them to participate in the virtual worship service. A list of graduates from Second will be in the May newsletter.

2. Ongoing Outreach and Connectivity

- a. Adult Choir – Karmen Van Dyke, Music Director, is trying to stay connected and is open to doing something with music. She admires the obvious cooperation among the pastors in the Presbytery to create and hold a successful and meaningful collaborative worship service on Sunday mornings. It is expensive to have smooth, fast, streaming video, and thanks to the foresight and planning of the Rev. Seth Finch, Covenant PC has been a most successful host. And they obviously have knowledgeable technical support. Karmen was pleased to be invited to be the keyboardists for some of the virtual worship services. She is not sure about any virtual rehearsal with our choir. It would be fun to try.
- b. Sunday School – Elder Kris Johnson has been recently promoted in his job at the water utility company, and his increased responsibilities requires much of his time. He needs support to generate a meaningful program. Elder Anita Abeyta has distributed videos to

some of the students. Pastor Rob and Kris will call Anita to discuss challenges and resources.

- c. Communication proposal from Alicia Montoya – Alicia, of the Livewire Committee, proposed holding a virtual “Coffee hour” after the Presbytery’s virtual worship, for 45 minutes, beginning at 11:15am.
- d. St. Martin’s/Project Share, April 25 – Elder Anna Torres, Mission Committee Chair, has identified volunteers to cook the casseroles. She expects to serve half of the regular number of clients at St. Martin’s.
- e. TransAsylee status – Elder Lynn Gatewood, Paying Treasurer, reported that when she was in the building recently, there was an intruder that came over the fence. Fortunately, our custodian was onsite and asked him to leave. As Lynn prepared to leave, she saw the women in the back yard, and stopped and tried to talk with them. Elder Abel McBride will visit with them to find out what is going on. Elder James Bencomo has materials that might work for a barrier on top of the gate to the North parking lot, which is easily scaled. The church custodian can help with installation as well as members of the Building and Grounds Committee.
- f. Daily Devotions – Rev. Kay Huggins, Parish Associate. Rev. Kay reported that she has completed four weeks of video recordings of Daily Devotions. This week she recorded three videos on Sunday rather than day-by-day, and used her yard for the venue, instead of inside of her house. Last week and Holy Week had the highest views. The Devotions consist of scriptures, self-composed poems, and prayer, all written and presented in the spirit of the admonition of Calvin that there will be “no dumb reading of scripture.” Rev. Kay will continue with the daily devotions. She has a great crew and has received lots of positive comments. Intercessory prayers are done using first names only. Deacon Bev Molo is promoting viewing of the devotions and reports that there is a faithful viewer from Logan, NM!
- g. Wednesday Bible Study – Rev. Kay Huggins, Parish Associate. She misses the in-person questions and comments when the study was held in Fellowship Hall, but has been faithful in continuing the study of I Corinthians. Pastor Rob will try some extra outreach to non-internet members and friends who might be interested.
- h. The May newsletter will be produced by Livewire, without a calendar.
- i. Discussion email group “SecondPres Fellowship” – Everyone should check their Junk mail for possible posts from the email group. Any member of the email group can send a post using the address: fellowship@secondpresabq.org

3. Budget/Offering Considerations

- a. Elder Eli Lopez, chair of Stewardship and Finance, reported there was a deposit of \$5,000 from recent mail-ins. He will provide information for our post office box for the May newsletter.
- b. EFTs – There was a question on how to designate a special offering using EFT, and the solution suggested was to send an email to the counters with the offering information.
- c. Presbyterian Foundation online giving – The online giving is on our website and is being used.

- d. Board of Pension dues waiver – The waiver has been approved by the Board of Pensions.
- e. Mail-in's – The post office box has been procured: # 25561.
- f. Long-term considerations for budget – A working group has been formed and will meet to discuss and plan the implications and considerations for the budget, with the possibility of the health crisis restrictions continuing.
- g. Payroll Protection Plan – We are proceeding with the application.
- h. Counters – Our offering counters have been consistently scheduled, and so far, everyone has been willing to do the counting in the church office, observing as much safety procedures and distance as possible and still accomplish the counting.

4. Other Considerations

- a. Livewire is planning some videoconference sessions on “Orienting to the Digital Church,” which will include review of the website, use and management of email groups, our church management system (Breeze), Instant Church Directory, and use of Zoom.

Session agreed that we should continue with our weekly meetings.

Next meeting, Tuesday, April 28, 2020, 5:30pm, Session Special Meeting, via Zoom videoconferencing.

ADJOURN WITH PRAYER

There being no objection to adjournment, Pastor Rob adjourned us with prayer at 7:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,

George T. Huggins, Clerk of Session