**Grace Presbyterian Church**

**Stated Session Meeting**

**July 23rd, 2020**

Moderator Cathy Hoop called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM via ZOOM. A quorum was established with the following members present: Madeleine Hill, Gary Minder, Jane Shipley, Sandy Wolfe, Bill Shoemaker, Giilie Presley, Susan Donovan, Denise Yanura, Sherry Kimbro, Brad Fisher, April Lane, and Erik Peterson. Anedra Avery, was excused. The meeting was opened with prayer.

April Lane provided a devotional.

**Joys and Concerns of the Session**

1. Jennifer Shepherd will be on medical leave during the month of August, the Session will keep her in their prayers.
2. Sherry Kimbro commented on the importance of the Grace Food Pantry and praised Jennifer Sheppard for all the work she does to keep the Food Panty in operation.
3. All session members commented on their current situation in regard to life during the pandemic.
4. Madeliene Hill reported that the Home in Place program is making good progress.
5. Bill Shoemaker reported progress in recovery from back surgery.

**Committee Reports**

**·       Worship:** No meeting in July

**·       Finance and Stewardship:**

Summary of Zoom Meeting 7/7/2020

Online: Cathy Andreen, Nicole Varnado, Cathy Hoop, April Lane, Barry McGee, Jimmy Powell, Bill Shoemaker, Rush Watson, Madeleine Hill.

Primary business was to review the budget status for mid-year budget and to plan stewardship emphasis for the remainder of the year.

1. Budget Review
2. A comparative printout of Revenues and Expenses effective 6-30-2020 was earlier distributed by Barbara Burroughs. Revenues, including pledges, have remained on course and steady. Quarterly deposits from investment accounts for operations represent about 25% of all revenue.

Expenses for all budget categories were reviewed. Whereas most were significantly low due to the Covid19 shutdown mid-March, personnel costs are as anticipated, representing 62% of the approved annual budget. The staff’s extraordinary efforts to retain a vibrant church community during this pandemic were commended and highly praised by the committee. Total operational expense for six months was $195,629 or about 46% of the budgeted $420,897.

II. Stewardship

One consequence of the shutdown is a hindered ability to regularly provide information about expenses. Reminders of ways to give are in the newsletter, website and Sunday worship. But additional examples would be instructive. The group offered several ideas that may be shaped into a basic three-phase strategy, culminating in Dedication Sunday.

Initially , show Grace in action. During July and August, short videos of producing the worship service and active outreach activities will be aired during worship and posted online, e.g., Loaves & Fishes delivering food bags to the drive-through, Meals On Wheels preparing and distributing breakfast, Congregational Care in action, etc. During this time, a letter would be sent summarizing six months of costs and offering thanks for continued support.

The September phase may also be two parts: a slide show of a proposed narrative budget plus several newsletter blurbs, each an aspect of operational costs, similar to blurbs used last year.

The last phase could be a weekly combination of the best of the videos, summaries of some Matthew 25 uses, additional blurbs, then Dedication Sunday October 25.

We will seek footage from Channel 33, ask members to help with videos and photos and solicit writers. Plans will be implemented immediately and adjusted as we move ahead.

**·       Mission, Peace & Justice:** No meeting in July

**·       Communication:** No Report

**·       Congregational Care & Fellowship:** No Report

**·       Christian Formation:**

**Meeting on July 1, 2020,5:30 p.m. via Zoom**

**Report**

1. Preschool/Children- Leslie

2. Wired Word- Cathy

3. “The World and Me,” Avery

**Unfinished/On-going**

1. Middle School

2. Weekday Zoom for children

3. Virtual Summer Experience

**New**

1. “Good White Racist” July 28 and 30

**·       Personnel:** No meeting in July

**Pastor’s Report**

1. Session unanimously approved Nominating Committee. Committee members are David Cannon, Bill Shoemaker, Sandy Wolfe, Lee Keyes, and April Lane.
2. Grace Presbyterian is continuing conversations with UUCT regarding sharing space.
3. A Zoom meeting to introduce potential new members of Grace will be scheduled. Gillie Presley, Sherry Kimbro, Denise Yanura, Eric Peterson, Madeleine Hill, Susan Donovan, and Gary Minder volunteered to participate in this effort.
4. Memorial Garden renovations have been completed. Session expresses appreciation to Wayne Jones and Todd for their work on this project.

We Remember Our Past

1. Session approved Stated Session Meeting minutes of May 28, 2020

We Look to the Future

1. Date for next meeting will be August 30, 2020 at 6 PM
2. Sherry Kimbro volunteered to provide the devotional for the next Session meeting.
3. April Lane and Madeleine Hill volunteered to be Commissioners to the next Presbytery meeting.
4. Avery Smith would like to continue her internship through September.
5. Cathy closed the meeting with a prayer.
6. We receive God’s benediction and are adjourned.

Robert Spencer, Clerk Cathy Hoop, Moderator