**Grace Presbyterian Church**

 **Stated Session Meeting**

**September 24th, 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, Bill Shoemaker, Gillie Presley, Susan Donovan, Denise Yanura, Sherry Kimbro, Brad Fisher, April Lane, and Erik Peterson. Anedra Avery and Sherry Kimbro were excused. The meeting was opened with prayer.

Susan Donovan provided a devotional.

We spoke at length with interns; Kendra Peeples, Avery Smith, Madison Vaughn

Dance Program will re-start with 8 members, Martha Bace supervising

Pandemic team approved

Dancers will meet in Fellowship Hall, Monday thru Thursday evenings

YMCA would like to extend their program of using Grace facilities. 21 children are in the program

Discussed the cost of Lance deep cleaning the classrooms once a month

Building and Grounds will pay the cost out of its budget

Grace will extend the program until the end of this calendar year and then re-evaluate

Motion made and carried by unanimous approval.

Discussed returning to normal church services, session agreed it will not be until at least the beginning of next year

 Discussed Presbytery Mission of Unified Giving

$5 to $10 per member requested by Presbytery

Session will vote on that at next meeting

Prayers for Anedra and Sherry

August minutes approved.

Committee Updates:

1. Finance (TBD)
2. Worship (See Attached File)
3. Congregational Care (See Attached File)
4. Building & Grounds (No Meeting in September)
5. Mission Peace & Justice (See Attached File)
6. Christian Formation (No Meeting in September)
7. Personnel (No Meeting in September)
8. Communications (TBD)

We Remember Our Past

* Approval of stated session meeting minutes of August 27th, 2020

We Look to the Future

* Date for next meeting will be October 22, 2020 at 6 PM
* Cathy Hoop will lead us in a devotional at our next meeting.
* Cathy closed with a prayer.

 We receive God’s benediction and are adjourned.

Robert Spencer, Clerk Cathy Hoop, Moderator

**Worship Committee Minutes**

**September 16, 2020**

**Old Business**

Blessing of the Backpacks had good participation and was well-received by students and parents. Matt Smith's drone was a big hit!

**New Business**  -

**Blessing of the Animals - Sept. 27, at 4:00 p.m., via Zoom**

Pet parents should register with the office. Materials for blessing will be delivered. Animals can be "live" in the service or photos can be screen shared. Clips of the service may be used the next Sunday, Oct. 4 (World Communion Sunday, Feast of St. Francis)

**More Light Sunday - Oct.11**

Several possibilities were discussed regarding who will speak/preach. The idea of inviting multiple speakers from past More Light Sundays to speak for short amounts of time received enthusiastic support.

**Children's Sabbath - Oct. 18**

The service will be constructed around presenting The Perfect Square, a book by Michael Hall. Carol Schlicter presented ideas and prototypes for helping to bring the story to life. Sibling groups will be assigned parts and given kits to create their part of the story. Each group should submit a video of their portion by Oct. 10.

**All Saints - "**Carrying the Saints" - Tonyia Tidline will lead a Zoom "How To" on this adult creative worship project. Photos of finished projects will be used in the Nov. 1 All Saints service.

**Advent Devotional Guide**

The concept has evolved. We are now thinking of approaching this in a Prayercast format. Volunteers will record their devotion for Prayercast. It will also be transcribed in print. Tentative schedule: Sunday, Wednesday, Saturday (keeping the children/family focus that we currently have for Saturday Prayercast).

**Sunday Service Participation Options - for those who can't stream**

* Must register to attend
* Up to 4 extra worshippers in the sanctuary
* Beyond these 4, others would be accommodated in another room with a digital device
* Masks and social distancing will be required

**Next Meeting - October 21, 5 p.m.**

**Congregational Care Committee**

**September 23rd, 2020**

• The committee’s budget will remain the same for the next year.

• Showing our appreciation for Grace frontline workers:  ”care-a-van” on 10/10/20 similar to what we did earlier:  make up a bag of small items for each family, and drive by their houses to give or leave the bundles. Cathy suggested that a ZOOM segment (perhaps at Sunday morning coffee hour) could also be prepared and made available to the honorees.

• Disaster Preparedness Committee:  Committee was asked to select a member to be part of a committee which will work on plans and procedures for disaster events involving the church building.  Sherry Kimbro volunteered to serve.

**Mission Peace & Justice**

**September 13th,2020**

**MPNJ minutes**

Minutes of Mission Peace and Justice Committee Meeting Grace Presbyterian Church

Sunday, September 13, 2020

Ten members present (meeting via ZOOM}

Gillie Presley, chair presided and opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes of August Meeting approved (Jim Taylor, motion}

Agenda items:

* Budget: members agreed that we should keep the same overall budget amount that we had last year (April Lane; motion}. Internal changes can be made later if needed,
* Letter writing: Judy reported that we were not able to do the letter writing last month, and the issue (private prisons} has moved ahead on the state level. Annabel suggested that we write to city leaders in support of maintaining funding for the Tuscaloosa Public Library and the Parks and Recreation Department (PARA). (It is reported that the city council is considering cutting this funding by 38%}. After some discussion committee agreed that we need more information on what changes are planned. Ruthie agreed to call 311, the city information number, to seek more information. Gillie suggested that we write a letter asking how the decision to cut the funding has been made. Judy offered to draft a letter and asked members to send her suggested bullet points to be included. Cathy suggested that the coffee fellowship after church on Sunday morning (both on ZOOM) will be a good time to discuss and possibly work on the letter.

Members agreed by common consent.

* Disaster Preparedness Committee: Grace is putting together a committee to develop policies and procedures for dealing with possible disaster events involving the church building. They would like to bring onto the committee one representative from each committee, plus some members from the congregation at large. Gillie suggested that we nominate Rachel Queen, who is a nurse and a member of MPJ. Nancy agreed to serve if Rachel is unable to do so. Jim volunteered to serve as a congregational representative.
* Alabama Arise will hold its annual meeting via ZOOM on Saturday, October 3. Grace will have six representatives, who have already signed up. AA continues focusing on the issue of expanding Medicaid, and others. Judy will send an official link when she receives the informa tion .
* "Gun Sense 11 candidates-Judy reported that she is working to help elect candidates who support sensible gun regulations: limiting ownership of attack rifles, requiring background checks, and recognizing red flag laws or extreme risk laws for gun owners. They are raising funds to support several candidates; they are conducting an online auction as a fundraiser. The auction can be found on the web in a site called11 Sisters.11 Bidding starts today.

The October meeting will be held on Sunday October 11.