**Grace Presbyterian Church**

**Stated Session Meeting**

**September 30th 2021**

Moderator Cathy Hoop called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM via ZOOM. A quorum was established with the following members present: Emily Altman, Adam Brooks, Brad Fisher, Sherry Kimbro, Madeleine Hill, April Lane, Erik Peterson, Gillie Presley and Bill Shoemaker. Susan Donovan and Ann Weeden were excused.

**Worshipful Work**

* Cathy Hoop leads our devotional.
* We share pastoral joys and concerns.
* We offer God our praise and thanksgiving:

*Guide us in our deliberations, God, and touch our lives with your loving kindness. May our decisions be made in the same spirit that was in Christ Jesus. May we be servants of your community of faith both within and far beyond these walls. Teach us, Lord, to walk in your way of grace. Amen.*

**Approve Agenda**

Motion was made to approve agenda. Motion unanimously approved.

**New Business:**

The following action items were presented to the Session.

* Welcome Jessie & Brett Jones to membership.
* Approve the baptism of their son, Phillip Witherall Jones for November 6
* Approve the request from Halley Keys and Kevin Bronner for their wedding, scheduled for May 14, 2022 with Cathy officiating. (Reception off site)
* Approve the request from Clarissa and James Levingston for their wedding, scheduled for April 9, 2022 with Cathy officiating. Also requesting use of fellowship hall for the reception.

All action items were approved by unanimous vote of Session.

The following topics were discussed.

1. Affirmation of faith though the ministry of Grace Presbyterian Church.
2. The need to educate “unchurched” members of the congregation on the topic of giving.
3. More work to be done by the Session nominating Committee.
4. Cleanup and restoration of the Wilds building.
5. Moving the November Session meeting to December 2nd.

**Committee Updates**

1. Finance & Stewardship Committee reported. See attached notes.
2. Worship Committee reported. See attached notes.
3. Congregational Care Committee reported. See attached notes.
4. Building & Grounds Committee. See attached notes
5. Mission Peace & Justice Committee. See attached notes.
6. Christian Formation Committee reported. See attached notes.
7. Personnel Committee. No report.
8. Communications Committee reported. See attached notes

**We Remember Our Past**

* Motion to approve Stated Session Meeting minutes of August 26, 2021

Motion approved unanimously with amendment (include financial audit).

**We Look to the Future**

* Date for next meeting: October 28th, 2021
* Cathy Hoop will lead us in a devotional at our next meeting.
* Cathy Hoop closed with a prayer

 We receive God’s benediction and are adjourned.

Robert Spencer, Clerk Cathy Hoop, Moderator

**Committee Minutes and Notes**

**Finance & Stewardship**

Stewardship and Finance Committee

Summary of Zoom Meeting, August 17, 2021

Present online: Madeleine Hill (chair), Cathy Andreen, April Lane, Barry McGee, Bill Shoemaker, Ira Thrasher, Nicole Varnado, Cathy Hoop

Bill Shoemaker opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes of the July meeting were approved.

Ira Thrasher led a discussion of the first chapter of the book “Not Your Parents’ Offering Plate.” The discussion led into a long conversation about Grace’s current financial situation and the prospects for funding proposals brought forward by the Visions Committee. In addition to the pledges and gifts each year, the church is heavily dependent on income from investments. If the value of those investments is reduced, investment revenue will be also be less, necessitating cuts in the current budget.

Following discussion on the timing of a capital campaign, April Lane made a motion to postpone the 2022 stewardship campaign to January 2022 to coincide with a possible capital campaign (and Grace’s fifth anniversary). The motion was seconded by Cathy Andreen and passed unanimously.

After discussion, Nicole Varnado moved that Grace proceed with an informal assessment of potential capital campaign donors to decide whether or not to hire a capital campaign consultant. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Accomplishments since the last meeting were noted:

1. The Insurance Board’s policies for auto, building and workers’ comp went into effect Aug. 1; the State Farm policy has been cancelled.
2. E-signatures for all six signers were completed at BankFirst, and effective August 1, all disbursements by check require two signatures.
3. The SF and Visions committees had an informational meeting with Robert Hay, Jr. of the Presbyterian Foundation on Aug. 3 to explore options for financing construction.

Madeleine Hill introduced a resolution to change the authorized signatories for both investment accounts to Cathy Andreen, April Lane and Madeleine Hill and remove Garry Warren. The motion passed unanimously.

The committee noted the generally positive report from the Church Audit Review. Among other recommendations, we will return to counting the offering immediately after the Sunday service. Two unrelated people will count each Sunday. Cathy Andreen will develop a counting schedule.

The next meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 21.

**Building & Grounds**

B&G Agenda August 23, 2021

Attendees: Bill Shoemaker, Lisa Higgs, Wayne Jones, Rob Spencer

1. Discuss open Sexton position.

2. Discuss what or how or when to tackle the following needed repairs or fixes.

A. Filling in for janitorial work until a candidate is hired.

B. Cut and trim all Shrubs and then mulch around them all across the property.

C. Spray weeds at playground and add mulch when it is purchased.

D. Clean out gutters on Fellowship .Hall in Garden area,.

E. Install chicken wire or something similar to wall vents in Garden area.

F. Patch asphalt in parking lot. '

G. Repair loose and broken pews in sanctuary.

H. Reglaze, sand, and paint all metal windows around church.

I. Replace bad light bulbs in side aisles in sanctuary .

J. Add sand to several deep low spots in play yard.

K. Sand and paint all doors on outside that need such.

L. Repair rotten wood in the roof beam between Fellowship Hall and Wilds Bldg.

M. Give some thought to maybe renting a 30yd. rolloff and cleaning up all debris from former Ballard property.

These are just a few things I observed as I walked the property. There are no doubt many more I have not listed. Any input from each of you that you see or fill needs added to this list Please make me aware of such.

**Worship**

**GPC Worship Committee Minutes**

**Thursday, Aug. 12**

**5:00 PM**

**ATTENDEES:** April Lane, Carol Schlichter, Sandy Wolfe, Matt Smith, Sherry Kimbro, Denise Yanaura, Leslie Poss, Rev. Cathy Hoop

April Lane called the Zoom mtg to order. Sherry Kimbro provided an opening devotion and prayer.

**Old Business**

1.Communion: Reviewed current pattern for safely serving communion. Agreed to use just 2 stations. Communion servers will be reminded of words to saw when distributing bread and juice. Carol was thanked for providing gluten free bread.

2. First People Land Acknowledgment is included in weekly video announcements

**New Business**

1. Return to Sanctuary for Worship: Reviewed A. safety protocols for in-person and

B. streamed worship: font size, camera views, audio, etc.

2. Review Special Sermon Series on the Lord’s Prayer

3. Discussed Upcoming Sundays and events

-October (Stewardship Month) **Finance committee requests a delay to early 2**

-October 3 (World Communion Sunday)

- October 3 Blessings of the Animals: 4:00 hybrid service streamed from sanctuary. We may also include a drive-through blessing

-October 10 Pride; We will have a tent again at Capitol Plaza this year

-October 17 (Children’s Sabbath) – We will work to include videos of children providing elements of worship. Christian Formation has moved the in-person obervance to Feb. 2022.

-October 31 (More Light Sunday/ Reformation Sunday

-December 15: Service of the Longest Night, 6:00`

4. Review 2021 budget and Discuss 2022 budget. We discussed and approved changes to the following line items:

a. 5050 Choir Resources- $500

b. 5053 Music- $750

c. 5056 Visual Art Supplies- $750

5. Worship Planning Team scheduled at 10 at Cathy Hoop’s Home Saturday, August 14.

6. Next meeting: Thursday, September 9 at 5 p.m. via Zoom

Close with prayer: Rev. Cathy Hoop

Minutes Submitted by Leslie Poss for Jane Shipley

**Mission, Peace & Justice**

**Minutes for MPJ meeting, August 8, 2021**

The Mission Peace and Justice Committee of Grace Presbyterian Church met via ZOOM at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 8.  Chair Gillie Presley presided and opened the meeting with prayer.

Agenda Items:

* Gillie reported that John Wathen, whose recent talk to the congregation via ZOOM was very successful, has sent some information on the issues he discussed, mainly regarding First Nations issues.  She asked the committee to consider what to do next.  Judy suggested that we get more information, possibly from a second speaker (Mr. Wathen suggested several people we might ask.)  Committee members were favorable; it was suggested that the speaker might be scheduled around the Heritage Festival at Moundville (October 6-9).  Members agreed on sometime during the last two weeks in September, which will be right before the Festival.  Judy will work on scheduling a speaker. There were some suggestions that the event should be scheduled for a weeknight, possibly a Thursday.
* Food Pantry:  statistics on July activity have been distributed.  Things are going well.
* Letter writing:  Based on the 2020 census, the state legislative and Congressional districts will be redrawn.  The process will be overseen by a commission, which has scheduled a public meeting for Tuesday September 7 at Shelton State.  Committee agreed that some members should attend the meeting and determine issues and questions we need to ask.  We can write to members of the commission (Judy has names).
* “Minute for Mission”:  Cathy Hoop reported that the Stewardship Committee has asked us to  arrange for some “Minute for Mission” sessions as part of the Sunday morning worship service, covering some of the projects MPJ sponsors.  She suggested that we do such a session on alternate Sundays, beginning immediately and going through the next few months.  After some discussion the following schedule was worked out:

August 15—People’s Loan Program—speaker Linda Crowder

August 29—Home in Place—Susan Benke

September 12-Carol DeVelice—Hand in Paw

September 26—Laurie Maxey—The House

October 10—Food Ministries (speaker tba)

October 24—Other organizations supported by Mission Peace and Justice Committee (Speaker tba)

It was agreed that a speaker may offer an oral presentation or a video.  Changes in the schedule may be made as appropriate.

Items from members:

Judy reported that Moms Demand Action recently sponsored a “Guns to Gardens” event. A recording

  may be available; Gillie will see if we can use it.  Moms Demand Action plans another event for September 4; Cathy has received an email about it.  Gillie will send more information.

Matthew 25 project: information has been sent to churches by the presbytery, with suggestions for things to do.  Gillie and Ruthie will look at the material and report at the October meeting.

International students:  Judy reported that the University is expecting a huge class of international students for the fall semester. They need local families to sponsor them by reaching out to them in social and supportive ways.  There will be a meeting on Sunday September 22 at Calvary Baptist Church to provide information and help with the sign-up process.

Alabama Arise:  The organization has had a good year, with an increase in donations. In the upcoming year they will focus on passing the Alabama Literacy Act and supporting public transportations (in particular supporting electrified public transportation and the Transportation Trust Fund.)

Minutes of the June meeting were passed.

Meeting time:  Gillie asked about changing the meeting time; she will look at the church schedule and send some possible nights for members’ comments.

Next meeting:  Sunday September 12, 1:30 p.m.

Gillie ended the meeting with the thought:  “Let no one return evil for evil.”

**Communications**

GPC Communications Committee

Thursday, August 19. 5pm.

Attending: Matt, Clarissa, Stephanie, Leslie, Cathy, Chris

Couldn't attend: Becki, Adam

Notetaker: Erik

* *Equipment*: conference room, youth room, fellowship hall.
* *Website refresh*: photo cycling, added search and site map.
* Druid City Pride advertisement
* *Internal communications*: stewardship narrative budget melded with Capital Campaign for new food pantry (January 2022)

**August 4, 2021, Congregational Care Committee**

Chairperson: Sherry Kimbro

Devotion: Group reflection of meaningful scripture was shared at the beginning of the meeting.

Update of members that we serve:

Go over and update the member list that Cathy gives us for letter/note writing. This list will be divided up among the members to write notes. This list will be rotated each month.

New Business:

Re start of Homebound Care Group Activities:

Ideas discussed were drive by caravans.

Singing groups that goes to homes and nursing homes

Make and mail a collection of favorite scriptures, poems, or inspirational sayings

Teacher Return to School Bag

Church members that teach, medical personal or in a front-line worker will receive a care bag of goodies. Projected delivery date first of September.

OLD Business:

Post service Lemonade and Cookies. Move the lemonade stand to a more noticeable spot.

Aug 8 Nancy

Aug 15 Sherry

Aug 22 Diane

Aug 29 Sherry

List of casserole bakers? Working on it.

Approve Meeting Notes: July 7, 2021

Next Meeting: Sept 1, 2021

Attendance:

Mimi, Gillie, Jimmy, Diane, Susan Benke, Nancy, Denise

Agenda and Minutes for Christian Formation Meeting

August 4, 2021 at 5:30pm

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ☒ Tommy Letsinger | ☒ Jane Shipley | ☒Ann Weeden |
| ☒ Cathy Hoop | ☒Leslie Poss | ☒ Sarah Newton |

**Business**

1.     Leslie opened us in prayer.

2.     Blessing of the Backpack date was set for Sunday, August 12.  We decided that we should do it drive through again, because most of the children aren’t able to be vaccinated yet.

3.     Children’s Bible Sunday- We give a family Bible to those with children 2nd grade and younger and 3rd graders receive their first “real” Bible.  Because of the pandemic, and the small number of children, it will be home visits again.  Cathy and Leslie will schedule the visit times.

4.     Workday to prepare the new high school confirmation class and organize the youth room was set for August 28th.  Shifts will be decided.

a.     Clean

b.     Light painting

c.      Organize supplies

5.     Children’s Sabbath is traditionally the 3rd Sunday of October.  That is fall break for the city schools, and children won’t be vaccinated yet, so we are going to plan for a date after the New Year.  For October 17th, we will invite some of the children to record parts of the service or invite vaccinated older children to be involved in person.

6.     Recruit teachers for Sunday morning class (using new Follow Me curriculum) to begin Sept. 12.  For the adults, in September Dr. Mark McCormack, from Stillman will teach.  Lib Caldwell will teach in October.  Susan Benke will teach in November.  We are hoping to offer the class as a hybrid.  Hopefully we will have equipment available to make a hybrid gathering better.  Sherry Kimbro will continue to teach middle school.  Cathy will teach confirmation with the high school kids.  Morning classes for children/youth 12 years and up and adults will begin Sept. 12.  Classes for K-4th grade will be online.  We would like to offer recorded classes that can be accessed at any time for the K-4th grade set.

7.     We will continue to offer childcare for children up to 4 yrs. old by reservation.  Cathy is reaching out to Jen Clem for advice.  Leslie will talk to families with children under 4 to see how they feel about continuing childcare.

8.     Committee Member updates

a.     Netti Byrd – yes

b.     Barry Cole – yes, in January

c.      Darrell Fielder –yes, in January

d.     Sarah Newton – yes

e.     Polly Sanders – yes

f.       Avery Smith – yes – would like to focus on book discussions

g.     Laura Thrasher – is not able to join at this time

9.     New business

a.     No new business

10.Pending Items

a.     Ann will set up Poll for meeting time and send it out soon