

Session Meeting
 First Presbyterian Church
 Davenport, Iowa
 April 15, 2019

The regular meeting of the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Davenport, Iowa was held in Von Maur Hall on Monday, April 15, 2019.

Moderator Rev. Katie Styrty called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and opened with prayer.

	Class of 2019		Class of 2020		Class 2021
P	Stephanie Arp <i>Finance</i>	E	Samantha Crow <i>Worship & Music</i>	p	Paula Burnett <i>Hospitality & Welcome</i>
A	Peter Bawden <i>Buildings & Grounds</i>	E	Barbara Ehrmann <i>Adult Christian Education</i>	p	Seth Crawford <i>Finance</i>
P	Bowles Edwards, Marty <i>Clerk of Session</i>	P	Michael Ferris <i>Worship & Music</i>	p	Jeffrey Gomez <i>Congregational Development and Fellowship</i>
P	Sarah Greim <i>Christian Ed. & Fellowship for Youth</i>	P	Dick Koos <i>Adult Christian Education</i>	p	Jim Keenan <i>Adult Christian Education</i>
E	Matt Kabel <i>Buildings & Grounds</i>	P	Pamela Paulsen <i>Finance</i>	p	Merlyn Pete Madden <i>Buildings & Grounds</i>
P	Jane Magnusson <i>Christian Ed. & Fellowship for Youth; Worship & Music</i>	P	Brian Price <i>Personnel</i>	p	Diane Roebuck <i>Christian Education & Fellowship for Youth</i>
P	Kristine Oswald <i>Worship & Music</i>	P	Ruth Ann Tobey-Brown <i>Personnel</i>	p	Karla Ruitter <i>Congregational Development and Fellowship</i>
P	Jeanne Sherwood <i>Hospitality & Welcoming; Nominating</i>	P	James Woods <i>Hospitality & Welcoming</i>	p	Don Wood <i>Worship & Music</i>

The Elders Roll (P=Present; E=Excused; A=Absent)

A quorum was present.

Staff members:

P	Rev Katie Styrty <i>Associate Pastor Moderator</i>	P	Tiffany McClure, CRE <i>Director of Christian Education</i>
P	Matthew Bishop <i>Director of Music</i>	p	Kristine Olson <i>Finance Manager</i>
P	Diane Pumphrey <i>Communications & Office Manager</i>		<i>Facilities & Custodial Supervisor</i>

Deacons' Representative:

P	Ted Brown <i>Deacons' Moderator</i>
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Guests:

p	Anita Burnett <i>Administrative Commission</i>	p	Pat Halverson <i>Administrative Commission</i>
p	Sam Massey <i>Administrative Commission</i>	p	Jeff Charis Carlson <i>Administrative Commission</i>

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On motion, the agenda was unanimously approved as amended.

On motion, the following CONSENT AGENDA items were approved as presented electronically:

- The minutes of the regular Session Meeting held March 18, 2019.
- **The REPORT OF THE CLERK OF SESSION**

New Members Received into Membership February 10, 2019 *

Veronique Hart-Saxton
John Sales, Jr
Christine Walsh

Certificate of Transfer
Certificate of Transfer
Certificate of Transfer

*Should have been on February 2019 report

Deaths

Miriam Goldsberry

Date

March 7, 2019

Officiated by

Unknown

BUSINESS OF THE CLERK - Marty Bowles Edwards

On motion, Approved April 2 by e-vote approved accepting the Heartland Fire & Security bid and to begin installation April 22, 2019. Vote count was as follows: 19 yes, and 5 no response.

- *(A full copy of the REF presented to the Session for e-vote can be found in the Appendix of the official 2019 Session minutes.)*

DEACONS' REPORT -Ted Brown

On motion, unanimously approved Wieber Fund Request of \$2,700 for the Neighborhood Picnic, and \$4,500 for Boys and girls Club Meals, for \$7,200 in total.

- Outreach:
 - Churches United Dinner server 72 people at its new location
 - Food Pantry collected \$245 in February and \$232 in March with additional food items collected as well.
- Mission Connection:
 - Veda Gill visited from Pakistan and gave ACE and youth group presentations on the work building a boy's school in Pakistan.
 - Alice Chikomo and ILUGUA both requested their mission payments to be made early in the year. This will be accommodated.
- Upcoming Events:
 - PUNCH Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, April 20th. Volunteers are needed to cook, wrap, and serve 1,000 hotdogs.
 - FPC Neighborhood Picnic, June 9, needs volunteers. Lemonade and sock/flip flop giveaway on June 4th from 3:00-5-00 will be held to raise awareness of the picnic.
 - Art Show on May 19th from 10:00 to 1:00 pm. 15 artists have signed up thus far.
- Resignation accepted from Jennifer Peters due to her family's relocation to Waterloo, IA. Jennifer has been involved in many Deacon activities and was the primary leader for Crop Walk in October. It was agreed not to try to replace Jennifer until the nominating committee picks a new Deacon slate at the end of the year. Outreach committee will look for people to take over the Crop Walk.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION – Jeff Charis Carlson

- Feedback is welcomed regarding communications emailed from the AC to the Session. These responses may be submitted to Jeff Charis Carlson in notes hand written or emailed. Recent AC communications included a letter from Sammy Massey dated March 20, 2019 and one from Jeff dated April 3, 2019, which reviewed the October 1 Presbytery instructions and the motions approved by Session in response. Those specific items are as follows:
 - The recommendations from MCC— likewise called on the Session to take several specific steps, including:
 - “The Session must immediately dissolve the membership of CG&P and re-populate it with other members of the Church. Those who were on the committee and sought to obtain Richard’s agreement to leave the Church should be advised to stay away from further involvement with CG&P, including avoiding conversation concerning Richard Miller’s pastoral relationship, and any and all Church personnel matters.”
 - “Any member of CG&P who is currently serving as an officer of the Church (i.e. Elder or Deacon) must resign from their active position on Session or the Board of Deacons. Continued service may expose the officer and the Church to liability for monetary damages.”
 - Session’s resulting actions:
 - “On motion, unanimously approved immediately dissolving the CG&P committee to be repopulated for the two Session positions on recommendation from the Nominating Committee.”
 - “On motion, First Presbyterian Church waives the jurisdiction to Presbytery of East Iowa to investigate the claims in the letter written by Presbytery.”
- St. Andrew Presbyterian Church is celebrating the Music and Message of Fred Rogers April 25-28. All are invited to attend and information cards were distributed.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS - Merlyn “Pete” Madden

- Rescheduled Church Grounds Clean-up day will be May 4, 2019

PERSONNEL - Brian Price, Ruth Ann Tobey-Brown

On motion, unanimously approved the full funding of the following course for Rev. Katie Styrt to provide her with needed tools for her enhance role as Acting Executive Pastor:

Midwest Initiative for Leading Transition's Seminar, "the practice of Transitional Ministry and Executive Leadership Education 3-otherwise known as week 2 of interim training. The class is from May 13-17 so she will need four extra days of continuing education leave. The event costs \$850 for tuition, room and board, plus mileage and meals during the trip to St. Louis.

- New Facilities Manager, Darren Long, began employment April 15, 2019. Darren brings a strong background and skill set to FPC, Davenport.
 - Interview committee made up of personnel and building and grounds members interviewed 4 candidates.
 - Background check and drug screening came back without any concerns.

- Darren started work April 15, 2019. By contract, he will receive \$15 an hour, during a probationary period of 90 days, after which his hourly wage will be renegotiated.
- Georgia will be training Darren during some of his 90-day probationary and will receive extra pay during these 90 days to compensate her for that increased responsibility.

HOSPITALITY AND WELCOMING - Jeanne Sherwood

On motion, approved baptism of Kelli DeCoster, Ben DeCoster, Rehema Zabibu, Scott Johnson, and Nick Johnson.

On motion, joyfully approved for membership and fellowship: William Cracraft, Ben DeCoster, Kelli DeCoster, Cecily Ferris, James Frohlich, Alyssa Horvath, Rece Johnson, Alene Keppy, and Rehema Zabibu.

On motion, approved for membership and fellowship: Jamie Buller, Matthew Hennes, Sarah Hennes, Bonnie Johnson, Nick Johnson, Scott Johnson.

- A Visitor's Guide was created for the FPCDavenport.org website, by Mark Jones.

UNITED TASK FORCE- Jim Keenan

- UNITE Task Force includes Tiffany, Judy Hawthorne, Abby Dillingham-Scales, Heather Roseman, Debbie Keenan, Tony Horvath, and me. (UNITE is the theme for June-August church-wide programming.)
- Matthew 25 was the spiritual basis for six practical acts of stewardship addressed by FPC Davenport in the Fall of 2018.
- Movement began to grow in the Presbyterian denomination to encourage churches to become Matthew 25 churches as the spiritual basis for six practical acts of stewardship addressed by FPC Davenport in the Fall of 2018.
- Then, just after April 1, a brochure on becoming a Matthew 25 Church arrived from PCUSA, and Tiffany was recognized that the photo on the front of the brochure is of our kids just outside Von Maur Hall.
- United Task Force will work with Session/Deacon committee-members, and others, to cross-pollinate ideas on how we might use the Matthew 25 initiative – in June, July, August, and beyond – to welcome members home, build excitement for a new, interim pastor, and celebrate our fall ministries.
 - Here are four examples:
 - Help ACE recruit six additional church members to occasionally team-teach ACE classes this fall?
 - Help Deacons recruit two new Members a month to serve at the Food Pantry this fall?
 - Ask members who are already helping at the Food Pantry to invite one or two lapsed members a month to serve with them this fall?
 - Asked all members – pledgers and non-pledgers alike – to pledge to spend 25 hours in service to what Jesus called “the least of these members of my family”?
- We want people to know that we ARE a serving church ... to know that we ARE a Matthew 25 Church ... and to “... know that we are Christians by our love.”

WORSHIP AND MUSIC – Matthew Bishop

On motion, approved the Wedding Policy as presented electronically,

(A full copy of the wedding Policy presented to the Session at the April 15, 2019 Session Meeting can be found in the Appendix of the official 2019 Session minutes.)

On motion, approved a Food for the Soul Communion service and Pot luck dinner to be held May 5, 2019 from 5:00-7:30 pm.

On motion, approved a single morning Worship Service to be held May 5, 2019 at 10:00 am.

FINANCIAL REPORT - Stephanie Arp

- All expenses of \$1,000 or more are to be submitted to the Finance Committee for review and approval.

	February 2019		February 2018	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
General Fund Income	73,902	62,516	62,209	66,779
Custodial Accounts Income	740	-	9,994	-
General Fund Expenses	72,994	72,993	70,416	75,060
Custodial Accounts Expenses	740	-	9,994	-
Surplus (Deficit)	908	(10,477)	(8,207)	(8,281)
	2019 Year-To-Date		2018 Year-To-Date	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
General Fund Income	212,220	200,834	244,200	243,849
Custodial Accounts Income	3,588	-	14,647	-
General Fund Expenses	139,480	139,479	147,425	153,162
Custodial Accounts Expenses	3,588	-	14,647	-
Surplus (Deficit)	72,741	61,356	96,775	90,687
All numbers are rounded.				

OLD BUSINESS

- **CG&P Complaint Challenge** – Synod has granted a hearing for May 4, 2019 in Minneapolis, MN to address the challenged dismissal of the CG&P’s formal complaint.
If a trial is granted, it will immediately follow the hearing on May 4, 2019 at that same location.
- A letter will be drafted and emailed to the CG&P Committee Members which will state the AC and Session wish to affirm their eligibility for serving as active Deacons and Elders in the life of this congregation. Rev. Katie Styrt and The Clerk of Session will author and sign the letter on behalf of the Session and AC.

IPNC -

- The Interim Pastor Nominating Committee (IPNC) was granted permission from the Presbytery to begin actively seeking a Pastor this month. They are hard at work spreading the word of the position and sifting through applicants for matches to our desired skills set.
- Patience and prayers are needed as the IPNC looks for the right fit, a track record of experience with a congregation our size, and availability in the near future.
- Appreciation was expressed for the good sermons we are hearing on Sunday Mornings which relieves the sense of urgency and desire to rush in the selection process.

NEW BUSINESS – None

STAFF REPORTS

Matt Bishop

- Appreciation was expressed to Matt for the meaningful and lovely Choral Evensong service on March 24, 2019.

Pat Halverson

- Appreciated the opportunities to preach

Tiffany Horvath

- Food Pantry on April 16, 2019 needs more volunteers – JB Young building at 4:00.
- Community Easter Celebration was April 13
- April 27, 2019 is the annual Comedy Sports, Young Adult outing
- April 28, 2019 is Youth Sunday

Kristine Olson

- Biennial reports have been filed with the State of Iowa
- More committees are using the custodial funds since the church is now on a month to month budget.

Diane Pumphrey

- Easter E-Card will be posted on Wednesday, April 17, 2019
- Working on Food for the Soul promotional materials for the website and to mail to the neighborhood.
- Wellness and Hospitality information will soon be ready for distribution and posting on our the FPC Davenport site.
- Birdies for Chair brochures will be in mail soon.

Katie Styr

- Calls on and visits with Congregational Members are ongoing.
- Katie traveled to participate with family members in honoring the life of Katie's Uncle and grieving his passing.
- Holy Week preparations are underway.

On motion, adopted a Policy of sending minutes from individual monthly committee meetings to Tammy Mayhew for distribution in a single email packet, prior to the following Session Meeting. Committees were encouraged to list the high points in consideration of time and format. This policy will be reviewed in 6 months.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm and Moderator Styr closed with prayer.

The next meeting of the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Davenport, Iowa will be held on May 20, 2019 at 7:00 pm in Von Maur Hall.

Moderator,
The Rev. Katie Styr

Clerk of Session,
Martha Bowles Edwards