

**The United Presbyterian Church of East Guilford
Regular Session Meeting**

A regular monthly meeting of the Session of the United Presbyterian Church of East Guilford was held on February 19, 2019 at Patty Wolff's home. The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM with prayer by Rev. Patty Wolff.

Elders Present: Jan Lafayette, Judy Ives, Patty Wolff, moderator; with a quorum being present.

Elders Excused: Dave Williams, Sharon Havens,

Elders Absent: none

Guests: Becky Holley – It was moved and passed to give Becky Holley voice and vote.

The Clerk of Session Report:

Membership Roll

Last report.....	51
Gains:.....	0
Losses:	0
Membership Roll, this report.....	51

Sacraments

Communion.....	1
Infant Baptism.....	0
Adult Baptism.....	0
Weddings.....	0
Funerals.....	0

The following **Communications** were received:

- Received a thank you from Good Shepherd communities for our \$100 donation.
- Received information from Camp Whitman regarding their camp schedule for this year and asking for a donation for their capital campaign. Patty took the information for Bainbridge Presbyterian church.
- Received email from Hemant Tandi. Lusi Digal is asking for college tuition assistance for this year.

Consent Agenda:

- Reviewed and set agenda for meeting.
- Approval of last month's minutes.
- Approval of standing committee reports.
- Approval of Clerk of Session report.
- Approval of Pastor's report and mileage
- Receipt of treasurer's report

Consent agenda was moved and passed including the following:

- January minutes corrected to read Sandy Egli served communion in January.
- Approval of annual congregational meeting minutes with corrections: Add that we gave voice and vote to 3 guests: Rita Kane, Angie Soltan and Helen Elwood.
- Approval of One Great Hour of Sharing mission.
- 2019 session document approved with change to note that the Personnel committee is also part of 2020 class.
- Update of Bibles, hymnals, service times, communion schedules for the year.
- Earth Care worship will be Sunday, April 28, 2019.

- Afternoon of Music will be Sunday, May 19, 2019

Removed from consent agenda for discussion:

- Recognition of those who helped with pipe trouble and clean-up. Moved and approved the following:
 - o Church will sponsor a make-your-own sundae Sunday after church on March 17.
 - o (5) \$10 Dairy Queen gift cards will be purchased to thank the Mirabito service technicians.
 - o \$75 gift card will be given to Rob and April Ray.
 - o Patty will write letter to Mirabitos and call Huff Ice Cream.
 - o Jan or Patty will purchase gift cards.
- Earth Care Conference in August in Stony Point attendance from EG was discussed.
- Request to send \$250 to Lusi Digal in India for college expenses was moved and passed.

Worship Committee, Judy Ives and Jan Lafayette, chairs:

- Communion was celebrated January 6 with Pastor Patty officiating and Sandy Egli serving. We had to cancel worship on January 20 as severe weather made travel unsafe. Consequently we postponed our annual meeting until February 3. Due to a "frozen church" and broken pipes we could not hold worship on February 3, so joined Bainbridge Presbyterian for their 11 AM service with communion. We held our annual meeting in the Bainbridge fellowship room after a soup and sandwich lunch.
- For Pastor Patty's upcoming Sundays away, we have secured Fred Downs for March 3. This will be a combined service with Bainbridge held at East Guilford. Paula Eppley will officiate at communion. Terri Barnhart will fill the pulpit on May 5, and Rev. Dr. Barbara Renton will lead our service and communion on May 12.
- We would like to propose holding our Earth Care Sunday the week after Easter on April 28.
- We also would like to schedule the Afternoon of Music for Sunday May 19 at 3 PM.
- We need to discuss when we will move back into the sanctuary for services, as we will be using it for Beulah's memorial service in early April.
- The congregation will gather for regular 2019 Sunday worship at 9:00AM in the sanctuary for the months of April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November and December and in the fellowship hall for January, February and March. Worship will be led by Pastor Patty Wolff preaching each Sunday except for designated vacation days or study leaves.
- The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated the first Sunday of each month and other special dates as approved by the session.
- The session approves the use of the The Worshipping Church, Hymns of Praise and The Presbyterian hymnals and the Revised Standard Version of The Bible as well as the NRSV Bible and The Message.

Building and Grounds, Dave Williams, chair:

- We signed a fuel contract with Mirabito last fall for guaranteed fuel pricing and a service contract. We assumed that we would have automatic fuel deliveries through the heating season. Mirabito cannot find our contract so we did not receive fuel deliveries this winter. It's been a long cold winter and the tanks ran dry, pipes and a toilet froze resulting in significant damage. April and Rob Ray arrived at the church Saturday, February 2 to clear the walks and clean the church when they discovered the heat was not on. Patty was notified and called Mirabito. Rob and April began heating the building with space heaters.
- Mirabito was quick to respond to our SOS, sending a team of technicians and a heater to begin the thawing process, fuel was put in the tank and work began to get the boiler running. Damaged pipes were repaired/replaced as necessary and completed on February 4.
- The sanctuary and narthex rest rooms were ok but baseboard heaters in the fellowship hall and CE area were broken--a total of 11 pipes, I'm told. The toilet in the CE area was also frozen solid. With the subzero weather we experienced during the week things could have been much worse.

- Church can resume in the fellowship hall starting this Sunday. The floor needs a good cleaning and there is a smudge on the north wall that needs to be scrubbed (simple green should dissolve it easily). The technicians did not replace the baseboard heater cover on the east end. It is functional as is but a couple able bodied individuals should be able to fix it quickly.
- The kitchen floor needs mopping but it is not bad--worship could go on without cleaning.
- Furniture in Patty's office needs to be moved back toward the wall.
- Christian Education room carpets could stand vacuuming but it is not a priority item.
- There is leakage around the toilet in the CE wing. I was unable to locate the leak so we mopped up water from the floor and put a do not use sign on that toilet. I will be happy to deal with this if everyone is willing to wait until I am able.
- The basement rec area suffered damage to numerous ceiling tiles and there are a couple pools of water standing on the floor. It would be good if someone could mop that up. We can hold off on replacing tiles for the time being. Someone recommended that we should add another dehumidifier but I believe we are ok as we are.
- I'm certain we didn't find every little thing so I ask all of you to be vigilant and document things you note and share them with Jan or Patty.
- Patty will review our insurance policy and speak with our agent. I hope we can recover some of the repair costs.
- Thanks to all of you who responded on Saturday, particularly April and Rob and for those of you who will help put things back to normal.
- This has been a learning experience. Here are my recommendations:
 1. Let us make sure that signed contracts are received by both parties.
 2. Let's make it a point to check fuel levels regularly.
 3. Find and activate the freeze alert system that calls designated members when the heat is not functioning. If we cannot find it, purchase a new one.
 4. Give thanks to God that the damage wasn't worse and the weather was warmer for thawing

Parish Life, Sharon Havens, chair:

- No report.

Mission & Stewardship, Jan Lafayette, chair:

- I submitted our Earth Care recertification and received confirmation that it has been received. We will get another email once it is approved. Thanks to all of you who reviewed it and sent me suggestions.
- Kathy Schmidt (thank you) and I worked on a new Earth Care bulletin board, which will show ways to care for God's creation. Items will change each month. The information is coming from a PCUSA program.
- As a result of the Presbytery meeting, Patty received some information about the Presbyterians for Earth Care Conference that will be held in Stony Point, NY in August. I am wondering if we should participate in some way.
- I would also like approval to participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering thru Lent. I think we should have received materials by now.

Nominating Committee:

- The session appointed to the nominating committee 2 elders from session: Becky Holley and Judy Ives.

Personnel Committee, Jan Lafayette, chair:

- A personnel committee meeting was held on February 7th with Pastor Patty, Kathy Williams, Sandy Egli and Jan Lafayette present.
- It was decided that Pastor Patty will be the contact person for emergency pastoral care while she is away.
- Patty was asked to join the Committee on Ministry.

- Jan helped organize 5 people who cleaned up after the pipe froze on Friday February 8th.
- Jan talked to John Palmer, and he thought it would be good to wait and do the carpets when it was less sloppy out. I will be speaking with him soon to set up a date for the work in March

Presbytery Report:

- No report.

Pastor's Report:

Administrative & Continuing Education
 Training of new secretary
 Frozen Pipe Event
 Continuing Ed – February 28 to March 3 – SBL Conference
 Annual Meeting February 3

Presbytery & Ecumenical
 Administration of Operation Merry Christmas – all charges paid up to date

Worship/Events
 Joint worship w/ Bainbridge during Pipe Event

Mission
 Filled Blessing Box

Bible Study
 Wednesday Morning – Minor Prophets
 Thursday Afternoon - Proverbs & Revelation

Old Business:

- Membership review – discussed reaching out to re-engage people before events.
- Working with other churches – see notes under new business.
- Set March 9 for elder training date. It will be from about 9 AM to 2 or 3 PM and will include coffee and lunch.
- Moved and approved March 10 for elder installation for Becky Holley.

Devotions:

None

New Business:

- Discussed two models of Church cooperation, and how to begin
 - It is possible that Masonville could be included. Any Presbyterian church from Otego to Afton could also be included.
 - Discussed possibility of holding a Town Hall Meeting with our congregation sometime at the end of May.
 - Discussed how to re-engage congregation members who have not been around. Patty would be willing to start a letter for our approval.
 - We will discuss this further next month.

Our next meeting of the session will be Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 6:00PM, location to be determined. With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by Judy Ives at approximately 7:50 PM.

Submitted by: _____

Jan Lafayette, Ruling Elder and Pro tem clerk

