

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

A regular monthly meeting was held via ZOOM on December 21, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 4:08PM with prayer by Rev. Patty Wolff.

**Elders Present:** Judy Ives, Gordon Spreutels, Becky Holley, Sandy Egli and Kathy Schmidt, Patty Wolff, moderator; with a quorum being present via ZOOM.

**Elders Excused:** Don Cole

**Elders Absent:** none

**Guests:** none

- The packet of papers was received by the clerk from the Presbytery including the ministry and mission form and pastor compensation forms.
- The GMU family Christmas gifts and food were picked up by them on December 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Reports from the various committees and groups for the annual report are due to the clerk by January 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Elders were asked to review the sexual harassment and child protection policy.

**Membership Roll**

Last report.....	49
Gains:.....	0
Losses: .....	0
Membership Roll, this report.....	47

**Sacraments**

Communion.....	1
Infant Baptism.....	0
Adult Baptism.....	0
Weddings.....	0
Funerals.....	Mary Edith Pizza DOD 11 Dec 2021.....1

**Consent Agenda:**

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

**Consent agenda was moved, seconded and passed.**

It was approved to hold the Christmas Eve service at 5:00pm on December 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Items removed from consent agenda:**

Nominating committee report: Judy has called and talked to many people who might be able and willing to serve on session and found no possibilities. Pastor Patty or Judy will contact AI and a couple of others.

**Action via email:**

Approval for Justin and Erin Burpoe to use our kitchen facilities to prepare and distribute a Christmas dinner to needy families in the area.

A Christmas gift for Patty was approved by session.

The financial review was conducted on November 24<sup>th</sup> with Sally and Roy Straka and April Ray, treasurer. They reviewed the books for 2021 and found no discrepancies and approved the work of the treasurer with thanks from the church family.

Pastor Patty completed the sexual harassment training and submitted to the clerk her certificate.

**Communications** were received:

Kathy received the end of the year packet from Presbytery. The Ministry and Mission Shared Gifts form was tabled until January's meeting.

**Worship, Sandy Egli and Becky Holley, chairs:**

- Worship services were held at East Guilford Presbyterian Church, in person and over Zoom, during the month of December. The services were held jointly with Bainbridge Presbyterian Church. Windsor Presbyterian Church joined us for some Sundays.
- Worship highlights for the month include:
  - December 5 and 26 Marsha Muller filled in as supply pastor, with Pastor Patty on study leave (December 5) and vacation (December 26),
  - December 5, communion was held with Marsha Muller as the officiant. After the service, a coffee hour was held and the sanctuary was decorated for the holidays. Poinsettia orders were also taken and 32 beautiful poinsettias filled the sanctuary.
  - Each Sunday, December 5 – December 19, Advent was celebrated through the lighting of the Advent candles (Hope, Peace, Joy, Love)
  - December 24, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held at 5:00pm, with the Christ candle being lit. Pastor Patty will lead the service.
- Beginning on December 19 and continuing until further notice, masks must be worn at all times during services at the church, due to rising Covid illnesses and new Covid variants.

**Building and Grounds, Gordon Spreutels, chair:**

Our fuel supplier, Blueox, called and offered a special \$0.25 per gallon off to fill up so I said yes and they delivered 265 gallons this month.

**Mission & Stewardship, Judy Ives, chair:**

The blessing box has been filled three times a week. The JAARS jar currently has about \$10 in it. Perhaps we need to remind people of its presence and purpose. So far we have collected about \$45 toward the Christmas Joy offering. The GMU family received a Mountain of Food and a lovely array of gifts from our generous congregation.

**Nominating Committee:**

The committee is seeking a person to replace outgoing elder Becky Holley. They met by phone and face to face, and looked over the list of members and regular attendees. After calls to several people who would be eligible, we found no one willing to serve as session member. We even called members who have not attended regularly, but found no candidates. We are at a standstill.

**Personnel Committee:**

No report.

**Presbytery Assembly Report:**

None

**Pastor's Report:**

1. Administrative & Continuing Education
  - a. Work on Operation Merry Christmas in Preparation for the December 11, 2021 Giveaway. Check issues ongoing.
  - b. Secured coverage for EG and Bainbridge for November 28 and December 5 – Marsha Muller
  - c. Contact Burpoes regarding Christmas Outreach Dinner
2. Presbytery & Ecumenical
  - a. Operation Merry Christmas Books and Outreach
  - b. Attended Presbytery Assembly on November 13, 2021 and prepared report
3. Days Off (Vacation) Requesting
  - a. Took Study leave from November 22 through December 6
  - b. Vacation Scheduled Vacation for December 25, 2021 through January 7, 2022
  - c. Day off – Still Monday
4. Worship/Events

- a. Joint worship in person and over ZOOM on November 7, 14, and 21.
    - a.i. Added Windsor November 14
    - a.ii. Stocking Person Protective Equipment
  - b. Sending bulletins to Colleen Lewis each Sunday who does printing and mailing
  - c. Sending Thoughts for the Day as needed
  - d. Recording worship and sharing virtual link with anyone who asks or wasn't in church. List has 12 East Guilford folks
  - e. Update prayer list weekly
  - f. Special prayers for Veterans Day
5. Bible Study – Continuing
    - a. Wednesdays at 9:00 AM in East Guilford. Starting Living in Faith: Women Who Trusted God by LifeWay
    - b. Thursdays at 2:00 PM in the Manse. Starting Romans: In the Grip of Grace by Max Lucado
    - c. Received and placed Advent devotionals; 2 versions.
  6. Mission
    - a. Windsor Presbyterian – staying in contact. They will join us over ZOOM when needed.
    - b. Filling Blessing Box on Fridays

**Old Business:**

- It was decided that a schedule of church use will be given to Rob Ray so he will know when the cleaning and salting of the sidewalks this winter needs to be done. Pastor Patty will make a schedule to give him and he can also be called on an as needed basis. It was approved to give a key to the front door to Rob for access to the building and to get equipment for cleaning the sidewalks. It was approved via email to pay him \$100 per month.

**Devotions:**

None

**New Business**

- Christmas Eve dinner for 160 people will be prepared at our church by the Burpoes. Kathy will give a key to the fellowship hall to the them to be returned after their work here.
- Ministry and Mission form will be tabled until the next meeting.
- It was moved, seconded and approved to set the annual congregational and corporation meeting to January 16, 2022 after worship service in Bainbridge to be held via ZOOM and/or in person at the Bainbridge church.
- Once the annual report is complete, it will be distributed via email for approval before January 9<sup>th</sup> for distribution to the members prior to the annual meeting.
- The 2022 budget was reviewed and accepted.
- The funding of the Blessing box of \$75 per month is adequate at this time.
- It was moved, seconded and approved to send \$1000 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.
- It was discussed that the session should prepare for when Pastor Patty retires in June 2022 by looking for an interim pastor including help from COM and talking with John Helgeson. Patty indicated she would look into some option with those people.

The next meeting of the session will be Tuesday January 18, 2022 at 4:00PM at the church. With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by Pastor Patty at 5:28PM.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Katherine Hager Schmidt, Clerk of Session

