

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 January 19, 2021 via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6:09PM with prayer by Rev. Patty Wolff.

Elders Present: via Zoom: Judy Ives, Sandy Egli, Becky Holley, Patty Wolff, moderator; with a quorum being present. Kathy Schmidt, clerk, joined the meeting at 6:25PM

Elders Excused: Dave Williams and Sharon Havens

Elders Absent: none

Guests: Don Cole, Gordon Spreutels

It was moved, seconded and passed to give voice and vote to Gordon Spreutels who is an ordained elder and voice to Don Cole. Gordon and Don were elected at the annual meeting to serve as ruling elders in the class of 2023.

The Clerk of Session Report:

Kathy Schmidt will begin working on the recertification for Earth Care Congregation for our 11th year. She will also update the mailbox labels for session members.

Membership Roll

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

Sacraments

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

Consent Agenda:

- Reviewed and set agenda for meeting.
- Approval of last month's minutes with minor corrections.
- 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.

Transition Discussion:

- Instruction on the role elders in the Presbyterian church was given to incoming elders (Don and Gordon) highlighting their role as ruling elders to "discern the will of God for this house of God."
- It was approved to hold ordination and installation of Don Cole and Gordon Spreutels on Sunday January 24th.
- Passing on of notebooks and materials from outgoing elders and chairs was discussed, especially due to the fact that Kathy and Dave Williams will be moving sometime during 2021 and have been valuable members of the congregation and session for many years.
- Ruling elders are asked to submit their reports each month the Sunday before the session meeting, even if there is nothing to report.
- The session will meet monthly on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:00PM via ZOOM until it is safe for in-person meetings given the COVID pandemic.

Items removed from consent agenda:

- The clerk of session presented the statistical report to PCUSA. The statistical report was reviewed and corrections were made to the worship attendance and Christian education participants. It will be submitted to PCUSA.
- The clerk of session reviewed the church information form that will be submitted to the Susquehanna Valley Presbytery in regards to church office hours which will be by appointment at the manse and worship service time was set for 10:00AM.
- The Presbytery mission pledge was discussed and it was approved to submit \$1200 for that line. Pastor Patty will scan and submit it.
- The Pastor Compensation form was received and Pastor Patty will forward it to April for her to fill out and submit to Presbytery.
- Pastor Patty will get the Per Capita amount for 2021 and get that information out to the congregation.

Communications were received:

- Memorial money from the Bruce and Helen Elliott's family for kitchen needs. The key to the church was also returned from the Elliott's.
- A thank you from the Sidney Central School for the holiday meals on December 24th given to students' families.

Worship Committee, Sandy Egli and Becky Holley, chairs:

- Due to the current pandemic and stay-at-home mandate, virtual church services were held, via Zoom/phone, on the following Sundays: December 20, 27, January 3, 10 and 17 at 10:00AM. All services were led by Pastor Patty Wolff, with the exception of the December 27 service as she was on vacation. Mike Claire from Windsor Presbyterian Church led this worship service. All services were held jointly with Bainbridge Presbyterian Church, with Windsor Presbyterian Church joining us on some Sundays.
- Communion was held during the January 3 service, with congregants breaking bread and drinking from the cup in their own homes. Pastor Patty was the officiant for communion.
- Advent was celebrated on December 20 during worship and on December 24 during the Christmas Eve Service with candle lighting, reading and prayer led by Pastor Patty.
- A joint Christmas Eve service with Bainbridge Presbyterian Church was held over Zoom on December 24, at 7:00PM.
- Cleaning of the church has stopped at this time. Once services begin again in the church building, cleaning will resume.
- The congregation will gather for regular 2021 worship service on Sundays at 10:00AM via ZOOM due to the COVID pandemic. Once it is possible and safe to return to in-person worship, the service will be held in the sanctuary or fellowship hall, coordinating with the Bainbridge Presbyterian church. Worship will be led by Pastor Patricia Wolff 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 approved the use of the following hymnals: The Worshipping Church, Hymns of Praise, Glory to God and The Presbyterian Hymnal.
- The session approved the following versions of the Bible: RSV, NRSV and The Message.

Building and Grounds, Dave Williams, chair:

- Nothing new to report at this time. I will check the fuel level in the tanks. I will work with Don as time goes on so he is more familiar with the facility.

Parish Life, Sharon Havens, chair:

No report.

Mission & Stewardship, Judy Ives, chair:

- The Christmas Joy offering was completed in December. I do not yet have the total amount given. Our other mission is the blessing box, still being filled three times a week, with thanks to Elma Taylor for her help and shopping. The church pays \$75 a month toward the supplying of the box. These are the only two missions I am aware of at this time

Nominating Committee:

No report

Personnel Committee:

No report.

Presbytery Assembly Report:

No report

Pastor's Report:

1. Administrative & Continuing Education
 - a. Completed form for 2021 contract
2. Presbytery & Ecumenical
 - a. Operation Merry Christmas Give Away - December 19 at the hospital – drive up only
 - b. Attended COM meetings and clearance interviews for potential candidate for Walton
 - c. Got all new policies and procedures posted to the Presbytery web site. Old documents were archived.
3. Days Off (Vacation) Took December 25, 2020 through January 8, 2021 as vacation.
4. Worship/Events
 - a. Joint Worship over ZOOM on December 6, 13, 20, and 24 (Christmas Eve).
 - i. Joint worship hosted by Windsor on December 27, Mike Clare presiding
 - ii. Advent Devotionals and candle liturgy
 - b. Sending bulletins to Colleen Lewis (each Sunday) who is doing the actual printing and mailing
 - c. Sent out Thoughts and Prayers for the COVID situation and the world as able
 - d. Recording worship and sharing virtual link w/ Anyone who asks
 - e. Update prayer concerns
 - i. Current list has 13 East Guilford folks plus anyone I notice missing that day
5. Bible Study
 - a. Restarted two Bible Studies
 - i. Wednesday – reading Letters from a Skeptic by Dr. Gregory Boyd
 - ii. Thursday – finished reading Celebrating Abundance by Walter Bruggemann
 - b. Thursday Bible Study – Looking for a new topic
6. Mission
 - a. Continuing to buy items for the Blessing Box
 - b. Christmas for GMU Family
 - c. Session Coordinated Christmas Eve meals – Volunteers coordinated by Erin and Justin Burpoe.
 - d. Windsor Presbyterian – staying in contact. They will be joining us at various times until they find a new person for pulpit supply

Old Business:

- A letter was sent to the Smith Foundation about the church's plans for our fundraising plans for our portion of the roof project.
- The NYSEG bills were higher for a couple of months after we joined Delaware Solar. Dave Williams checked the bills since summer and they appear accurate.
- Dave Leidy called this morning and said our light bills have been correct. He volunteered to do a walk through in the church with us if anyone wants to see if there's something going on that Dave Williams cannot see. The session agreed that this would be a good idea and Don Cole will be there for the walk through.
- Lola Palmer will be recognized for her years of service as financial secretary on January 24th.
- Thanks were expressed to Kathy Schmidt, clerk of session, for her work on the preparing the annual report.
- The holiday meals prepared on December 24th were discussed especially regarding privacy of families. The list received from the Sidney school included first name only, number of meals, address, dietary restrictions and special instructions. Further thought and discussion will be given for future meals by the Burpoe team in regards to procedures, dos and don'ts and expectations of people using the kitchen.

Devotions:

Pastor Patty read a hymn "God of Love We've Known Division" written by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette that will be part of worship this coming Sunday. COVID losses we have experienced, the President Elect and VP Elect memorial ceremony for COVID victims and families and healing needed as a nation are divisions felt today.

New Business:

- The session committee assignments were discussed:
 - The 2021 Nominating committee will be chaired by Judy Ives with Don Cole as the other session member. Two members from the congregation elected at the annual meeting are Diane Bradshaw and Jancy Cole.
 - The 2021 Personnel Committee will be chaired by Sandy Egli, ruling elder. Two members from the congregation will be sought.
 - Financial Review Committee has been Roy Straka and Mark Baldwin and they will be contacted to see if they would like to serve again.
 - Sexual Misconduct persons have been Jeanne Harris and Roy Straka and they will be contacted to see if they would like to serve again.
 - Corporation and Administration Committee will be headed by Gordon Spreutels with assistant Don Cole.
 - Parish Life and Fellowship Committee will be overseen by the session members.
 - Worship Committee co-chairs are Becky Holley and Sandy Egli.
 - Stewardship and Mission Committee chair is Judy Ives.
 - Earth Care committee will need to be set.
- It was moved, seconded and passed to hold a brief congregational meeting on Sunday February 7th at 11:00AM via ZOOM after worship. It was noted that the congregation did not vote on the positions of treasurer, assistant treasurers or clerk of session, so this will be on the agenda.

The next meeting of the session will be Tuesday February 16, 2021 at 6:00PM via Zoom. With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by at 7:47PM by Judy Ives.

Submitted by: _____

Katherine Hager Schmidt, Clerk of Session