

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

A regular monthly meeting of the Session of the United Presbyterian Church in East Guilford was held on August 15, 2023 via Zoom. The meeting was called to order with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Ken Simurro at 6:07pm.

Elders Present: Don Cole, Al Clune, Kathy Schmidt, clerk, and Rev. Simurro, moderator; with a quorum being present.

Elders Excused: Gordon Spreutels

Elders Absent: none

Guests: none

The Clerk of Session Report:

Membership Roll:

Last report.....	41
Gains:.....	0
Losses:.....	0
Membership Roll; this report:.....	41

Sacraments:

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

Don Cole acted as meeting facilitator.

Consent Agenda:

- Reviewed and set agenda for meeting
- Approval of clerk's report
- Approval of Pastor's report and mileage for June and July
- Approval of minutes for June session meeting
- Receipt of treasurer's report for June and July

Items removed from agenda:

None

Consent agenda was moved, seconded and passed.

Communications:

- Invitation from Unadilla First Presbyterian church for their 200th anniversary on Saturday October 28th 5:00 - 8:00.
- Notice from Pastor Patty Wolff that Operation Merry Christmas has received their 501c3 status and the monies have been transferred to their account in June. All documents have been given to our treasurer April Ray.
- Sexual harassment training needs to be done each year by church employees: Ken, Judy, April, Renee and Rob. Available through Presbytery are ZOOM sessions that are interactive on August 15, September 20, October 26, November 15 and December 6th. This should be overseen by the Personnel committee (Al, Diane and Marie). The session needs to review annually the current policies and will be on the next meeting's agenda.
- The nominating committee will need to become active and it is lacking 2 congregational members. Al Clune is chair and Gordon is the session member. Upcoming session openings: 2 open seats from last year and 2 outgoing elders, Gordon and Don who have served 3 years (class of 2023). Discussion regarding the "aging out" of congregation members and their ability to take positions on the session. Further discussion on the future of the church will be on the upcoming agenda. The Clerk will send out copies of the documents from

discussions and meetings with Pastor Patty Wolff. Cheryl Nages is a member of the COM and Doug Horne is the COM contact for us.

- Grand piano: Dorian has someone who might be interested and Betty from Binghamton area saw the info on Thursday Thoughts and is interested if still available.
- Shoe Drive: articles were placed in area newspapers, on WCDO, Thursday Thoughts and small town connects email. There is a collection box on the porch of the church. This runs until Sept 23rd.
- Red Bird project: shoeboxes have been returned filled and many boxes have been taken by congregation and have more available in both churches.

Actions approved via email:

- Approved cancelling July's session meeting.
- Vacation time was granted to Pastor Ken for August 21 - 27th.
- Barefoot Sunday to be held Sunday August 20th. Congregation is invited to wear a pair of shoes for donating to the ongoing shoe drive and then go home barefoot.
- Approval for Aaron VanDuesen to sell firewood from a trailer on our property with some stipulations. Gordon and Don will follow up with him.

Worship Committee:

June 18 Service at Bainbridge
June 25 Service at Bainbridge
July 2 Outdoor service and communion at East Guilford with Rev. Dr. Ken Simurro presiding.
July 9 service at East Guilford
July 16 Outdoor service at East Guilford
July 23 Outdoor service at East Guilford, coffee hour
July 30 Outdoor service at East Guilford, coffee hour
August 6 Outdoor service at East Guilford, communion and coffee hour
August 13 Outdoor service at East Guilford, coffee hour

Building and Grounds:

No report

Mission & Stewardship:

Coffee hours were held before and after summer services beginning July 9th, sponsored by : Club 55 and Trackside Dining, Sidney and Erika's Cakery, and Bob's Diner, Bainbridge. In August we have had coffee hours thus far sponsored by: Tina's Donuts and Wakeman's Coffee, Sidney and Bainbridge Market and Deli, Bainbridge. For the upcoming summer services, we have commitments from Roasted Café, Sidney (20th), and Beez Knees, Sidney (27th). Requests and coffee hours have been well-received by sponsors and congregations respectively. All of August coffee hours will be after worship service. The hope for the remaining coffee hours is that we all will invite neighbors, friends, and family to join us. Thanks to everyone who has helped and participated to date. A report was received from the joint worship/mission committee.

Nominating Committee:

No report

Personnel Committee:

No report

Presbytery Assembly Report:

No Report

Pastor's Report:

Pastoral Acts:

Conducted 6 services
Made pastoral phone calls and responded to emails
Made 2 visits
Attended 3 Joint Mission Committee meetings
Attended Zoom with Lori and UHS representative

Input into Sunday's liturgies
Taught 2 homiletical classes
Conducted 1 funeral and graveside interment: Barbara Ann DuMond

Pastoral Work:

Taught 1 Bible Study
Taught 1 Confirmation class
Attended Spiritual Nurture Committee Meeting
Assisted at 1 soup kitchen
Attended Presbytery (local clergy) meeting
Attended Tri-Towns Ministerium
Attended 80 th Birthday party
Invitations sent to local doctors/dentists for Health Fair

Parish Concerns:

Bible Study goes on vacation until September
Health Fair (update)

Mileage information:

Commutation in June 7 round trips = 840 miles
Miles around town, visitation, meetings 2 trips = 90 miles
Commutation in July 8 round trips = 960 miles
Mile around town 1 trip = 4 miles

Old Business:

- A tree to be planted in Jim Barlett's memory was tabled until March 2024.

New Business:

- There has been a suggestion to hold 7 weeks long hunger series discussion from PCUSA just eating section. It explores relationships between the way we eat and the way we live within 5 key aspects: health of our bodies, challenge of hunger, health of earth that provides our food, opportunities for action, reevaluating and transformation of our eating practices and ways we use food to extend hospitality and enrich relationships. Ken will look into it.
- As a way to save paper, could a bigger format for bulletins for outdoor service use fewer sheets as EG has a big supply on hand of legal-size paper. Cheryl will discuss with Heather who does the bulletin formatting.
- September 9th Presbytery Assembly meeting in Endwell or hybrid and Al Clune will be commissioner.
- Pastor Ken's ordination anniversary celebration will be discussed in the joint meeting.

With there being no further business, the East Guilford portion of the meeting was adjourned at 6:47PM with prayer by Don Cole. The joint session meeting with Bainbridge followed this adjournment. The next meeting of the session will be at 6:00PM via ZOOM with a joint meeting with Bainbridge at 6:45PM on September 19, 2023.

Submitted by: _____

Katherine Hager Schmidt, Clerk of Session