

**Joint Session Meeting**  
**First Presbyterian Church of Bainbridge and United Presbyterian Church in East Guilford**  
**Virtual on Zoom November 21, 2023**

Attending: Paul Cliffe, Don Cole, Al Clune, Paula Banks, Cheryl Nages, Mike Davidson, Gordon Spreutels, Bainbridge Clerk of Session Dorian Bunting-Cliffe, East Guilford Clerk of Session Kathy Schmitz and Moderator Rev. Dr. Ken Simurro

Excused: Billie Jo Northrup

Facilitator: Cheryl Nages

**We Gather in God's Name and Present Our Offerings**

- Call to Order/Declaration of Quorum and Opening Prayer at 6:46 p.m.
- Approval of minutes from joint meeting October 17, 2023 - **MSP**

**Pastor's Report Highlights**

- Ken added that he taught a confirmation class today with Charlie.
- Motion to approve Ken's Thanksgiving and Christmas vacation request. **MSP**
- Ken shared various highlights from his many meetings this past month. He said that the Presbytery is aware of the many good things that our churches are doing.

**Committee Reports**

- Mission Committee – Ken met with Jon Fong who is the LEAP person for the Synod of the NE. He is working on connecting congregations with the Facebook community. Cheryl shared her meeting with Jon as well. There is a program involved and a 30 day trial. There is a cost, \$40 a week, but there are funds available. Cheryl gave more details about the program. One of the difficulties is that this is a hard time of the year to start with something like this. It was decided to table this for now and revisit it later in the spring.
- Spiritual Nurture - Christmas Eve service - the recommendation from the committee is that there is only a Christmas Eve service on December 24th and that it starts at 5:00. Motion to approve this request. **MSP**
- Motion to approve all of the reports. **MSP**

**Old Business**

- Motion to dedicate the Christmas Joy Offering on December 17th. **MSP**

**New Business**

- Dorian sent the 2024 Pastor salary worksheet from the Presbytery to Lori. Lori explained what we did last year and the options that we have for next year. Ken's current base salary is equal to the salary minimum, the Presbytery approved a 5% increase to this minimum for 2024. There was discussion about the various options we have. Dorian is going to find out more information about the minimum salary and Lori will work on a draft of the worksheet. This will be shared with session members in the next month.
- East Guilford Motion to send the loose offering from October 29th to the Pastor Clergy Care Fund. **MSP**

- East Guilford asked for Zoom and technology help for their annual meeting on January 28, 2024. Cheryl asked Kathy to email Ed to ask him for help with sound. Cheryl will also help. There was also discussion about Cheryl and Ed training some people from East Guilford to use the technology that they have.

**Next Meeting**

- December 19th at 6:00pm for East Guilford with Bainbridge joining at 6:45 p.m. and will be on ZOOM.
- Motion to adjourn @ 7:38 p.m. **MSP** with a closing prayer (Cheryl).

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorian Bunting-Cliffe, Clerk of Session