

**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 March 17, 2020 via ZOOM. The meeting was called to order at 3:10PM with prayer by Rev. Patty Wolff.

Elders Present: via Zoom: Sharon Havens, Judy Ives, Becky Holley, Dave Williams, Patty Wolff, moderator; with a quorum being present.

Elders Excused: Sandy Egli, Kathy Schmidt, clerk

Elders Absent: none

Guests: none

The Clerk of Session Report:

Membership Roll

Last report.....	50
Gains:.....	0
Losses:	0
Membership Roll, this report.....	50

Sacraments

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

The following **Communications** were received:

None

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.

Items approved via email:

It was moved, seconded and passed to suspend in person worship service for Sunday March 15th until April 5th Palm Sunday.

Items removed from consent agenda:

None

Worship Committee, Sandy Egli and Becky Holley, chairs:

Regular church service was held in February at 9:00 AM on the following Sundays 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd. On February 2nd communion was held with Pastor Patty Wolfe as officiant. Becky Holley and Elma Taylor served. Volunteers continue to step forward to clean the church each week, which is greatly appreciated with March and April covered.

Building and Grounds, Dave Williams, chair:

The front door lock working again. I reset times on the clocks and thermostats for DST. I adjusted the fellowship hall thermostat down to 50 degrees and put it in the hold position. By reducing the everyday heat by five degrees and overriding the Sunday morning warmup to 70 degrees we will save a considerable amount of fuel.

Parish Life, Sharon Havens, chair:

Report not available.

Mission & Stewardship, Judy Ives, chair:

March mission report was just that we have the materials for One Great Hour of Sharing. Fish boxes are available for collecting change, as we realize our great wealth in comparison to many places in the world, and our need to share.

Nominating Committee:

No report

Personnel Committee:

No report.

Presbytery Assembly Report:

A report of the February 22nd Presbytery Assembly was received from Pastor Patty.

Pastor's Report:

1. Administrative & Continuing Education
 - a. CE – SBL Conference in Princeton NJ – Cancelled
 - b. Took Study Week
 - c. Successful electronic transfer of pay check for March 1st
2. Presbytery & Ecumenical
 - a. Administration for Operation Merry Christmas
 - b. Attended COM Meetings
 - c. Attended COM Policy Review Team Meetings
 - d. Attended Assembly in Binghamton
3. Days Off (Vacation)
 - a. Taking Vacation – 1 week – April 27th through May 3rd
4. Worship/Events
 - a. Joint Ash Wednesday Service
 - b. Found and mailed out devotionals for Lent
5. Bible Study – Two Groups
 - a. Wednesday at 8:00 AM finished Job – I hosted Bible Study this month
 - b. Thursday at 2:30 PM – Reading Proverbs and Matthew
 - c. Recommending third group start after panic has passed; Sunday afternoons at 1:00 PM at Bainbridge; perhaps share a bag lunch
6. Mission
 - a. Stocked Blessing Box
 - b. Placed New Signage in Blessing Box

Old Business:

- Web Site Update – Dale Francis surrendered our domain name (eastguilfordpc.org) and we are now in charge of the web site ourselves. Ray got a discounted price through the Sidney Alumni Association. The cost annually should be about \$37. GoDaddy is now using security that needs a cell phone contact for the owner of the domain name. When someone wants to work on the web site or it has a problem, the owner has to receive a code number on the cell phone and type it in. That's really difficult if the web master (Ray) has to get in touch with Dale before he can gain access. The Session previously approved our assumption of the cost of our own web site.
- Lasagna Dinner Reset Date or Cancel – The Session will leave this up to the Ladies Group.

Devotions:

None

New Business:

- During the time we have suspended "in person" worship paying the organist was discussed and Judy is OK with suspending her pay until we return to the sanctuary.

- Ideas for Virtual Church
 - Sundays – get something short together for March 22nd for both churches (East Guilford and Bainbridge) to be viewed over ZOOM, and see how the quality is. If no good, then try two sessions on March 29 – one for each church.
 - Can have prayers, scripture, message, music videos, etc. and perhaps change things up from week to week. Dave believed scripture and a message was necessary.
 - Maundy Thursday with Bainbridge perhaps virtual or cancel it – need communion on this occasion.
- The session agreed by consensus to purchase the lilies already ordered for Easter (24 plants). Becky will also order Palms. The local flower shops --Village Flowers in Bainbridge and Darlene's on Route 7 have experienced a number of cancellations. We are concerned with businesses that may experience hardship during this time of crisis.
- The Session is also concerned that as people are barred from work, there will be an increased need for food.
 - Patty and Judy will continue to fill the Blessing Box.
 - There is also concern for the food pantries in the area that have adapted their procedures for handing out food during this time. The Session M/S/P to give \$75 each/per month to Sidney UM and Mount Upton (\$150 total) to supplement their stores. If they request it, we would spend the \$75 and bring them the items they need. Patty will get information from Paul Winkleman and Judy Ives will contact Carol Klum for the Mount Upton Food Pantry.
- Patty suggested we see if there is a place we can make donations for test kits for the virus. **The World Health Organization (WHO)**, says this is the primary way the spread of the disease can be stopped or slowed.
 - Patty will contact the hospitals to see if this is feasible
 - Dave will get a recommendation from Karen Williams.
 - There is a possibility of donating to the WHO web site or PDA for this purpose as well.
- Giving during the time “in-person” church is suspended. Let everyone know to send checks to Becky Holley at: 362 Butternut Road Unadilla NY 13849
- Becky reminded everyone that as the Session we all need to reach out to members of the congregation during this time. Patty stressed information and communication.

The next meeting of the session will be Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 3:00PM, at Patty's house or the church or via Zoom. With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by Becky at 4:35PM.

Submitted by: _____

Katherine Hager Schmidt, Clerk of Session