

**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 April 21, 2020 via ZOOM. The meeting was called to order at 3:03PM with prayer by Rev. Patty Wolff.

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

**Elders Excused:** none

**Elders Absent:** none

**Guests:** none

**The Clerk of Session Report:**

**Membership Roll**

Last report.....	50
Gains:.....	0
Losses: Bruce Elliott DOD 29 Mar 2020.....	1
Membership Roll, this report.....	49

**Sacraments**

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

The following **Communications** were received:

Palms for Palm Sunday are available at the Bainbridge church for pickup. Top 3 Proposals was submitted by Sandy Egli. Rev. Walt Geiszler from PCUSA sent an email about updating websites. \$500 grant from Susquehanna Presbytery. Insurance coverage regarding corona pandemic. Earth care Congregation recertification notice. Daily messages and prayers from Patty. Message from Board of Pensions regarding waiving payment. Earth Day email with possibilities for worship.

**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:**

- Motion to turn off hot water heater until we get back to the sanctuary was made, seconded and passed.
- Earth Day worship will be held on April 26<sup>th</sup> was approved.
- Motion to celebrate communion on Holy Thursday as a joint virtual worship with no communion on Palm Sunday was passed.
- Application for \$500 grant from Presbytery to be reviewed and approved by session.

**Items removed from consent agenda:**

- Mission Report:

- Blessing Box - Patty, Judy and Lori Davidson (Bainbridge) continue to keep the Blessing Box full. It is being emptied almost as fast as we can fill it. We received two additional notes on the note pad we keep in the box, thanking us that this mission is still ongoing. Patty reported that Lori Davidson (nurse) said the COVID-19 virus cannot live long on the types of items we are putting in the box; canned food, bagged food, etc. Though we will continue to use gloves and masks we are not at risk filling the box and those who use it are also not at risk. Patty and Judy are currently funding this. We can revisit this if necessary.
- OGHS – only about \$100 had been collected before the lockdown started so we will bring this back around when we return to the sanctuary.
- Church Cleaning
  - Jeanne Harris and Jancy Cole have been cleaning during the lockdown. The Session decided by consensus that it was not necessary to keep cleaning until we get back to regular services.
- Delaware River Solar offer
  - Dave reported there is a new offer out by Delaware River Solar if someone who has signed up for the service refers another person, \$100 gift card. Patty also reported that churches who sign up will have a \$50 gift card donated to another Not-for-Profit in their name.

**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, at 9:30AM, on the following Sundays: March 22, 29, April 5 (Palm Sunday), April 12 (Easter), and April 19. All services were led by Pastor Patty Wolff and were held jointly with Bainbridge Presbyterian Church.
- On Maundy Thursday, April 9, at 7:00pm, a virtual service with communion was held, with Pastor Patty as officiant. Those joining in via Zoom/phone were asked to have bread and wine/juice available for participation in communion. The service was held jointly with Bainbridge. Note: Communion was not held on Sunday, April 5, as it was agreed by Session to have communion on Maundy Thursday only.
- On Good Friday, April 10, at noon, a virtual Tenebrae service was held, jointly with Bainbridge. Pastor Patty led the service and volunteer members assisted with the readings.
- Palms were available for pick-up at the Bainbridge Presbyterian Church, for any who wished to have palms for the Palm Sunday service. Also, 24 Easter lilies were ordered and picked up by Judy Ives and Francis. The lilies were delivered to many, prior to the Easter Sunday service. Currently, some lilies are still available.

**Building and Grounds, Dave Williams, chair:**

I've raked the sod and snowplow debris, picked up trash and have the lawn ready for the first mowing. I plan to place posts near the chestnut trees to support the trees when I remove the tree tubes. They should really grow this year.

**Parish Life, Sharon Havens, chair:**

No report.

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

See removed from consent agenda.

**Nominating Committee:**

No report

**Personnel Committee:**

No report.

**Presbytery Assembly Report:**

No report.

**Pastor's Report:**

1. Administrative & Continuing Education
  - a. Took Study Week March 9 through March 15, 2020.
  - b. Successful electronic transfer of Paycheck for April

- c. Ray has moved the web site to our ownership – we owe him about \$37
  - d. Attending various ZOOM meetings for updates from Presbytery and others
2. Presbytery & Ecumenical
  - a. Administration for Operation Merry Christmas – Looking for New place to purchase items for Christmas Giveaway
  - b. Attended COM Meetings
  - c. Attended COM Policy Review Team Meetings
3. Days Off (Vacation)
  - a. Cancelling vacation from April 27 to May 3
  - b. Move week to May 4 through May 10
4. Worship/Events
  - a. Virtual Worship on March 22 and 29.
  - b. I am currently paying for ZOOM subscription
  - c. Sending Paper copies of Bulletins as needed to both congregations
5. Bible Study – Three Groups
  - a. Wednesday at 8:00 AM – Finished Job – Hosted Bible Study this month
  - b. Thursday at 2:30 PM – Reading Proverbs and Matthew
  - c. Sunday Afternoon – 1PM – To start after the COVID-19 Lockdown has ended – Share Bag Lunch?
6. Mission
  - a. Stocked Blessing Box
    - i. 2 to 3 times per week
    - ii. Lori Davidson also stocking our Box on behalf of Bainbridge
    - iii. Sharing Costs w/ Judy
    - iv. Using Price Chopper and Christine Rogalski's Convenience Store
  - b. Placed New Signage in Blessing Box

**Old Business:**

- Patty reported that the East Guilford website has been moved to our ownership of the domain. Costs will be about \$35 per year to maintain.
- Virtual church has been generally well received. People enjoyed the services and enjoyed hearing Judy Ives play this past week (April 19). More people are coming to church than might normally.
- Mission money (\$75 a month) is being sent to Sidney United Methodist Pantry and Mt. Upton Food Pantry. Test kits for COVID 19 are still hard to get.

**Devotions:**

Patty asked that each person offer prayers for the situation and their thanks for what positive things have come out of it.

**New Business:**

- It was moved, seconded and passed to apply for a three months waiver from Board of Pensions in regards to dues forgiveness.
- Patty reported dues decisions for 2021. Dues will remain at 37% of effective salary. Pension dues will be going down, medical up and the Board of Pensions will add Temporary Disability.
- It was approved to ask for a \$500 grant from the Presbytery for technology and other needs.
- The annual lawn sale is still planned for July 11<sup>th</sup> right now. Goods can be brought to the church.
- Discernment process is temporarily on hold although both churches had arrived at a similar place.

The next meeting of the session will be Tuesday May 19, 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 devotions at 3:58PM.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Katherine Hager Schmidt, Clerk of Session