

**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 September 8, 2020 via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM with prayer by Rev. Patty Wolff.

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

Elders Excused: none

Elders Absent: none

Guests: none

The Clerk of Session Report: Loss of two friends of our congregation Leta Williams and Helen Elwood.

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

The following **Communications** were received: none

Approvals via email: It was approved to accept the bid from Alpine Roofing for \$15,600 to install a metal roof and remove the chimney.

Consent Agenda:

- Reviewed and set agenda for meeting.
- Approval of last month's minutes.
- Approval of standing committee reports.
- Approval of Pastor's report and mileage.
- Receipt of treasurer's report.

Consent agenda was moved, seconded and passed.

Items removed from consent agenda:

- Discussion of high electric bill last month.

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: July 26, August 2, 30 and September 6. All services were led by Pastor Patty Wolff and were held jointly with Bainbridge Presbyterian Church.
- Communion was held during the August 2 and September 6 services, with congregants breaking bread and drinking from the cup in their own homes. Pastor Patty was the officiant for communion.
- Pastor Patty was on vacation during the following Sundays August 16 and 23. Links were sent for other Zoom/phone or outdoor services in the area.
- Cleaning of the church has stopped at this time. Once services begin again in the church building, cleaning will resume.

Building and Grounds, Dave Williams, chair:

- I removed the gazebo steps. The stringers were rotten and ready to collapse with the weight of a person climbing or descending. I think it's safe to say that travel in either desired direction would result in downward motion.
- Since our last meeting we have secured bids for the roof project and agreed to have the narrow window above the sanctuary entrance door replaced.
- I met outdoors with a number of church members when the roof bids came in. We agreed that Alpine Roofing Company's bid for a steel roof was our best and lowest cost option. One of our congregants suggested that we remove the chimney as well and all agreed. Alpine modified their proposal to include the extra work and we agreed via email to award the bid to Alpine. I asked if they could put the work off until October to give us an opportunity to submit a grant request to the Smith Foundation.
- Madison Vinyl will replace the window in the autumn.
- Gordon has mowed the lawn the last three or four times.

Parish Life, Sharon Havens, chair:

No report.

Mission & Stewardship, Judy Ives, chair:

The mission report remains mostly the same. Our Blessing Box is filled at least four times weekly by Pastor Patty and by myself. It has been gratifying to see that it is used, and that some is left once in a while. Not much, but it says that people using it are not taking everything at once. Our notices are effective. Meanwhile, we can use donations of food or money, as I run close to empty some weeks. We continue to fill and are so thankful we are in a position to be of help during this pandemic.

Nominating Committee:

No report

Personnel Committee:

No report.

Presbytery Assembly Report:

No report

Pastor's Report:

- Administrative & Continuing Education
 - Sending out bulletins and telephone information via snail mail
 - Purchased and am holding/sharing PPE in anticipation of reopening
- Presbytery & Ecumenical
 - Administration for Operation Merry Christmas
 - Attended COM Meetings
 - Attended COM Policy Review Team meetings
 - COM Exit Interviews, clearance interviews, and ordination exam for Hilary Island-Thomas
- Days Off (Vacation) – Took August 10 through 23, 2020
- Worship/Events
 - Joint Worship over ZOOM on July 5, 12, 19, 26, August 2, 9, and 30
 - Provided bulletins for Windsor and Laurens worship, as well as link to other worship services while on vacation
 - Sent out daily thoughts and prayers for the COVID situation and the world.
 - Recording worship and sharing virtual with anyone who asks
 - Current list has 10 East Guilford folks plus anyone I notice missing that day
 - Delivering devotionals as requested
 - Was able to deliver final graduation gift to Emma Egli.
- Bible Study – Suspended Until Further Notice
- Mission
 - Filling up the blessing box twice per week

- Reaching out to Nineveh Presbyterian and Windsor Presbyterian
- Reaching out to congregation members who have had trouble getting into ZOOM

Old Business:

- It was approved that Bruce Elliott's memorial service can be planned and held on October 5th at the church as long as COVID-19 guidelines for reopening are followed. Pastor Patty will follow up with the family.
- The following items were tabled: lawn sale, Delaware River Solar Fundraiser for roof, schedule deep cleaning, resume cleaning of church, and Bible Study.

Devotions:

None

New Business:

- As the internet service provided by Frontier at the church is unreliable, it was moved and approved to switch to Spectrum internet (\$49.99 for 1st year) and phone (\$19.99 for 1st year) and to be completed by the time it is decided to go back into the sanctuary for in person worship.

At this point in the meeting, at 6:31PM, a joint ZOOM meeting with the Bainbridge Presbyterian session followed the regular session meeting to discuss reopening in person worship. Pastor Patty has obtained necessary personal protection equipment including face masks, hand sanitizer and Clorox wipes as well as face shields for her and organist. It was decided that a hybrid worship with in person and ZOOM will begin October 5th with services at 10:00AM.

The following motions were presented and approved by both sessions:

- The two churches will resume in person worship with a hybrid model using ZOOM for one service at 10:00AM with Bainbridge and East Guilford alternating months for hosting.
- To conduct a review after 3 months of the hybrid model with ZOOM and in person services. Either session may ask for a review at any time.
- The services will begin on October 5th at Bainbridge for the month of October.

The following issues were discussed:

- Bainbridge church has Spectrum internet provider and East Guilford will switch from Frontier to Spectrum as well for better connectivity.
- Ray Taylor suggested a camera for East Guilford for improved quality.
- Does Bainbridge want/need a screen?
- Christmas Eve service
- Bible Study
- No singing in church
- Capacity limits of the church building will be capped at 50%
- Pews will need to be marked before October for spaced seating
- Windsor Presbyterian congregation has been invited to join our worship service on ZOOM.

The next meeting of the session will be Tuesday October 20, 2020 at 6:00PM, at the church or via Zoom. With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by at 7:12PM by Dave Williams.

Submitted by:

Katherine Hager Schmidt, Clerk of Session

