

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

A regular monthly meeting of the Session of the United Presbyterian Church in East Guilford was held on December 19, 2023, via Zoom. The meeting was called to order with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Ken Simurro at 6:08 p.m. **Elders Present:** Don Cole, Al Clune, Gordon Spreutels, Kathy Schmidt, clerk and Rev. Simurro, moderator; with a quorum being present.

Excused: none

Guests: none

Clerk of Session Report:

Membership Roll:

Last report.....40
Gains:..... 0
Losses:0
Membership Roll; this report:.....40

Sacraments:

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

Gordon Spreutels acted as meeting facilitator.

Consent Agenda:

- Reviewed and set agenda for meeting
- Approval of clerk's report
- Approval of committee reports
- Approval of Pastor's report and mileage for November
- Approval of minutes for November session meeting
- Receipt of treasurer's report for November

Items removed from agenda:

None

Consent agenda was moved, seconded and passed.

Actions approved via email:

None

Communications:

- Information on holding congregational meetings and NYS law: Churches may now have meetings where corporation business is being voted on with some people voting in person and some on-line as long as you have guidelines and procedures in place to allow equal participation. This was allowed during the COVID pandemic and is now permanently allowed.
- Presbytery is holding training for elders to lead communion
- Book of order additional policies required by PCUSA: Adopt policies on Harassment, Adopt policies on Anti-Racism, and Implement boundary training at least every 36 months.
- Operation Merry Christmas appeal

Worship Report:

- November 21, 2023 Services at Bainbridge Presbyterian Church, Pastor Ken officiating.
- November 28, 2023 Services at Bainbridge Presbyterian Church, Pastor Ken officiating.

- December 3, 2023, First Sunday of Advent at East Guilford, Pastor Ken officiating communion
- Decorated church, inside and outside, with Nativity Scenes on windows along with Christmas trees inside and outside.
- December 10, 2023, Second Sunday of Advent church at East Guilford, Pastor Ken officiating.
- December 17, 2023, Third week of Advent, services at East Guilford, Choir performed, coffee hour also served after service with Pastor Ken.

Building and Grounds Report:

- The sidewalks will be shoveled by Dave with compensation to be determined.

Mission Report:

Joint report with Bainbridge church.

Nominating Committee Report:

The committee reported that they will present 3 candidates for the positions of ruling elder class of 2026: April Ray, Don Cole, Gordon Spreutels.

Personnel Committee Report:

None

Presbytery Assembly Report:

None

Pastor's Report:

Pastoral Acts:

Conducted 3 services
 Made pastoral phone calls and responded to emails
 Attended Foothills Conference Ministerium (Lutheran)
 Attended Tri-Towns Ministerium
 Attended Spiritual Nurture Meeting
 Input into Sunday's liturgies (special one for Christmas Eve)

Pastoral Work:

Christmas Tree and church decorating
 Attended the Bainbridge Christmas parade
 Taught 3 Bible Studies
 Taught 1 confirmation class

Parish Concerns:

Year-end reports

Mileage information:

Commutation in October 5 round trips: 600 miles
 Miles around town, visitation, meetings 3 trips: 78 miles

Old Business:

- Memorial donation from Jim Bartlett tabled until next March.
- Moving forward: the letter was mailed out on December 11th to all congregation members. It was decided to email the same letter to all members and friends of the church as well.
- Annual meeting: the 2023 reports from the committee chairs and pastor are due January 7th to the clerk of session so that the annual report document can be made available prior to the January 28th meeting. Cheryl Nages will oversee the ZOOM component of the meeting.
- The 2024 draft budget was reviewed with the treasurer, April Ray. She will make the changes requested.

New Business:

- Training for the East Guilford congregation members on the use and set up of the technology updates will be

held in 2024 and the tech manual will be updated.

- The church's nativity set made by Fontanini may be worth more than \$2000, so April Ray will check with the insurance company regarding coverage.
- Open positions of leadership (Personnel committee, financial review committee, sexual misconduct contact persons) discussion was tabled
- Carillion has been worked on by Ed Gorton and he thought it was in working order but consequently it was found to be playing for hours and was shut off for now.

With there being no further business, the East Guilford portion of the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m. 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 January 16, 2024.

Submitted by:

Katherine Hager Schmidt, Clerk of Session