

May 6, 2020 Fairmount Presbyterian Church Session Minutes
Fairmount Presbyterian Church
2757 Fairmount Boulevard
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118
Virtual Meeting

Moderator: Jessie Macmillan, Interim Senior Pastor

Clerk of Session: Bourbon L. Zeigler

Session Members: Rev. Lindsay Harren-Lewis, Associate Pastor; Brian Perkins, Christina Seekley, Vanessa Whiting, Carol Adrine, Raleigh Duttweiler, Stephanie Washlock, David Bosler, Keith Mills, Peg Zitzner, Grant Gannon, Sarah Pope.

Guests: Nancy Chism, Church Administrator; Leah Wyman, Artistic Director; Amy Kim Kyremes-Parks, Director of Spiritual Formation; and Matt Hrubey, Treasurer.

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order with prayer at 6:30 pm by Rev. Jessie MacMillan.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion: to approve the Session Minutes of April 1, 2020. Seconded and Approved

Motion: To receive the following report of all weddings, funerals, baptisms, and communion that have taken place at the church since session's previous meeting: Seconded and Approved

1. Weddings/Funerals/Baptisms: None
2. Communion: Since the last session meeting March 11, 2020:
 - Communion served virtually through digital platforms (Facebook, YouTube, website) on Palm Sunday, April 5th at 10:00am.

Motion: to approve the membership statistical report through April 1, 2020. Seconded and approved.

Total Membership as of April 1, 2020 753

Deaths

- Christine Sumner, March 30, 2020
- Grace Yamamoto, April 1, 2020
- Marilyn Mihal, April 13, 2020

Total Membership as of May 6, 2020 750

Faith Journey- Grant Gannon gave his faith journey to Session

Faith Formation-Community Poem

- Amy Kim along with Cherie and Scott Parsons will be putting together a community poem, people that are interested on being part of this can send their poem to our website in care of the above people.
- Fairmount would like to install a Free Little Food Pantry on church property. This would be a project for the youth of the church. Motion was made and seconded for Faith Foundation to follow through on this project. Approved

Treasurer's Report

Discussion Topics

- Status update on Paycheck Program (PPP) application
We were approved for this program for the whole amount of \$112,275.
- Susanne Knauer has resigned as financial secretary; church is hiring a new financial secretary or an accounting temp
- Status updates current pledge amount is \$632,579.50, which is still about \$67,000 short of budget target and \$77,000 short of \$710,000 stewardship goal.
- However, people are still fulfilling their pledges, right now about 40% have been fulfilled.
- We have also recorded gifts to the general operating fund, in addition to pledges of over \$16,000 from members year to date.
- Analysis of pledges fulfillment is ongoing.

Endowment

- Market value as of 3/31/2020: \$ 7,788,148
- Value declined 15.1% for Q1 2020
- The endowment recovered much of its value as of 4/30/2020

Operation

- Continuing work to identify a method for sending money to the Dominican Republic that balances expediency and our need for accountability.

Discussion on worship and gradual re-entry

1. Thank to the Zitzner Family for the use of money from the Zitzner Fund for the purchase of a new computer for the Sunday virtual worship service.
2. Verbal report on the virtual worship statistics are being worked on by Elder Duttweiler so we can get a more accurate account on how many are listening each Sunday.
3. Nancy will be checking on radio broadcast for Sunday morning worship.
4. Recommendation from the Task Force regarding worship:
 - To continue virtual service until the end of August. Motion made to continue virtual service. Approved
 - Building opening for wedding and funerals following state guidelines
 - Work travel for staff, use their own discretion
 - Hourly Employees, will continue to receive their pay.

Convergence Consulting Process (leading up to pastor search)

Surveys completed and we should receive the report (including demographics) by May 15. This will be forward to Session.

Next step to have small group. Leaders have already been trained. Groups will be planned virtually, with possible outdoor meetings later in the summer. Seven sessions over 12 weeks.

Then a summit is planned for September where all the information is pulled together. A PNC could be elected shortly afterward. 2.5 months of work groups on specific areas and second summit in November. Enough information for a MIF, which could then potentially be approved by January.

William Burkett Fund

Under the guidelines, the Committee has updated language

The Committee shall consist of up to seven members of Fairmount Presbyterian Church, including the Chair, and including a member of the Faith Formation Council, and shall be affirmed annually by Session.

Motion:

The William Birkett Williams Fund has been recently re-energized after a rather long hiatus. The committee (to be approved by Session) consists of the chairperson, Karen Dakin, Carl Hoffman, Joyce Pope and Geoffrey Barnes. The committee is seeking a revision to the past procedures for distributions from the Fund to provide enough flexibility to achieve the goal of the Fund. The proposal is to change permissible distributions from only "income" (viewed as only interest and dividends) to standard default distribution procedure for almost all other endowments funds (i.e., the standard 5% of a rolling 5-year period). The WBW funds would remain in the overall investment mix, and not kept in a separate account. The permissible annual distribution would be accounted for separately, and could be carried over from year to year and aggregated until there is a sufficient amount to obtain a qualified speaker. This was seconded and Approved.

Updates on Credit Card record Keeping

- Staff present and past to get records on their spending and we can make an assessment on what taxes are due.
- The people that are involved will receive adjusted W2
- Church will help if any additional taxes are due, and help with the filing
- No financial action will place until 2021.

Administration Council

- Just normal building and maintenance
- Wind damage to the roof
- Stained glass windows are on hold
- Front stairs work will begin soon

Care Council

- Strawberry Festival and Celebrate Sunday will be combined
- Gave \$1250 to University Settlement to help with their care programs. This money came from the breaking bread budget which is not being used.
- Coordinating with Serve Council on a food pantry program

Serve Council

- A donation to the Abundance Pantry program at Forest Hill of \$500.
- A donation to the Providence House for \$500.

Motion by Serve - Serve recommends to Session that that the Endowment (restricted) called Prison Education be changed to Prison Education and Re-Entry; and the description of the fund to include both educational experiences in jail & social reentry ministry efforts. Seconded and Approved

Closing prayer Rev. Harren-Lewis at 8:00 pm.

Bourbon L Zeigler, Clerk of Session