Session Minutes
Fairmount Presbyterian Church
2757 Fairmount Boulevard
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118
November 6, 2019 at 6:30 pm

Moderator: Rev. Jessie MacMillan, Interim Senior Pastor
Clerk of Session: Bourbon Ziegler
Session Members: Rev. Lindsay Harren-Lewis, Associate Pastor, Elders by class:

Class of 2019
Steve Ekeberg
Cherie Parsons
Ellen M. Roberts
Hallie Stewart

Class of 2020
Brian Perkins
Christina Seekely
Vanessa Whiting

Class of 2021
Carol Adrine
Raleigh Dutweiler
Krys Perry
Stephanie Washlock

Excused: Brian Perkins, Krys Perry, Vanessa Whiting, Bourbon Ziegler

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

The Consent Agenda with the following items was APPROVED

- Christina Seekely to be temporary clerk for this Session Meeting
- The Session Meeting Minutes of October 2, 2019.
- The report of all weddings, funerals, baptisms, and communion that have taken place at the church since session's previous meeting:
  The Wedding of Andrea Crabb and Onkar Sawant on Saturday, October 19th at 2:00pm in the sanctuary.
  A Memorial Service for Steve Minter on Saturday, November 2, 2019 at 11:00am in the sanctuary.
  Communion: (since the last session meeting October 2, 2019): 8:30am worship on October 6, October 13, October 20, October 27 and November 3; and 10:00am worship on October 6 and November 3.

- The membership statistical report through October 2, 2019:

| Total Membership as of October 2, 2019 | 757 |
| New Members | 0 |
| Moved from Active Membership to “Friend of Fairmount” | 0 |
| Removal from Rolls | 0 |
| Letter of Transfer | 0 |
| Deaths | 0 |
| Carol Mock, who passed on October 21, 2019. A memorial service for Carol will be held at Fairmount on November 23rd at 11:00am. | -1 |
| Total Membership as of November 6, 2019 | 756 |
• The report of the weekly average Sunday worship attendance, since the last Session Meeting, for the time period of October 6th through November 3rd, 2019 at approximately 157.

For comparison:
October 7th through November 4th, 2018 at 143.
October 8th through November 5th, 2017 at 187

• The transfer of membership for Mr. Kenneth Ledford to Lyndhurst Community Presbyterian Church, by his request.

• For Information: Pastors representing Fairmount at October 17 Celebrating Sukkot- interfaith conversation about creating community of conscience (Jessie), October 25 “Show Up for Shabbat” event in memory of the Tree of Life massacre (Jessie), November 1 Interfaith Breakfast focusing on the role of faith communities in supporting our immigrant neighbors (Jessie and Lindsay), November 2 Black Professionals Association Charitable Foundation Gala honoring elder Vanessa Whiting (Jessie, Lindsay, also Amy Kim).

**Steve Eckberg led a discussion of “Neighborhood Church”**

• When are times we have led or made decisions with a mindset of scarcity?
• As a leader with your council/Elder on Session, when have you seen abundance in FPC as a hindrance, something to work around, or a problem that needed to be solved?

**Reports were given from Faith Formation, Serve, Care, Admin, Nominating**

Nominating Committee: Will be presented congregation this Sunday 11/10/19.
Elders (2 of 5) Deacons (3 of 7) Trustees (2 of 2)
1. Keith Mills 1. Maryann Conn Brody 1. Doris Evans
3. Julia Swanson

Faith Formation: Jennifer Harvey event was successful and well-attended. Will lay groundwork for important work in the church moving forward.
Shooting without Bullets guest spoke last Sunday: well attended, incredibly interesting.
Parents Night Out: 15 kids, doing very well.
Tamir Rice foundation & Art Exhibit Opening – donation of ~$700 to each

Serve Council: In process of finalizing donations to various mission groups. Will ID over next 2 months of Council Nights meetings.

Care Council: Honor Dinner Date – in process finalizing date
Asked Deacons to give projected budget – things they’ve been spending $$ on / receipts, etc. to fully understand $$ flow
Admin Council: Reviewed Capital Projects Budget/Spending as of 9/18/2019
COMPLETE: Garth, Sound System, Ganson Doors, WiFi upgrades

Treasurer:
Gratitude Sunday last weekend – have about 40% of pledges for next year’s
Downturn of market – will take % of 2020 draw from endowment and put in interest-bearing account. Potential to save us money if economy does downturn.
Readjusting investment portfolio to align with investments of church
Ann Randall will not continue contract with FPC as of 1/1/20. Deadline to position to bookkeeper position within next couple of weeks. Nancy to put out posting for this.
Transitioning signers on bank accounts to new President (from Steve E to Carol A)
Please send Treasurer the Council meeting minutes

Motion: To elect Matt Hrubey as Treasurer for 2020 year. APPROVED

Action Items
- Steve to identify Elder to lead December Meeting Discussion of Ch. 2 “Neighborhood Church”
- Update website with Parents Night Out (still says 2nd Friday of the month)
- All Elders give feedback to Treasurer Matt on 2020 budget input for each Council
- Serve Council to determine the 5th Sunday in March activity (Big Church Sunday)

Motion to call a special Session meeting on Sunday, December 1 at 9:30 am to receive new members, to be presented at the 10:00 am service. APPROVED

Motion to approve receiving the “Christmas Joy” offering on December 22.

  Rationale: The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years. APPROVED

Motion to allow the choir to take up an offering for Sandy Hook Promise, as requested by the composer of “The Requiem” who provides the music without fee and requests a donation may be made. To provide opportunity for the congregation to give as well.

  Rationale: Sandy Hook Promise is a national non-profit organization founded and led by several family members whose loved ones were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012. Based in Newtown, Connecticut, their intent is to honor all victims of gun violence by turning tragedy into a moment of transformation by providing programs and practices that protect children and prevent the senseless, tragic loss of life. The congregation would be informed of the donation and advised how they could participate, if desired. APPROVED
MOTION: Blue Christmas / Longest Night Service to be Tuesday December 17, 2019 6:30PM. APPROVED

Reminders/Dates:

● Next Presbytery Meeting, November 25 2019 at 5:00 pm - Korean Central Presbyterian Church, Brecksville. Christina Seekely can attend

● Next Session Meetings, November 6 at 6:30 pm; December 4, 6:30 pm; and Session Retreat on Saturday, January 11, 2020.

● Neighborhood Church Discussions and chapters to read- please see Jessie if you need a copy of the book.
  December- The DNA of Listening (2)
  January Retreat- Transforming Partnership/Integrating Our Space/Sustaining the Vision (3,4,5)

● Congregational meeting on November 10 at 11:00 am for the purpose of electing elders, deacons, endowment trustees and members of the endowment committee.

● Annual Meeting of the Congregation/Corporation on February 9, 2020.

The Meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Christina Seekely, Clerk Pro Tem