

**Las Placitas Presbyterian Church  
Stated Session Meeting Minutes March 9, 2020**

Class of 2021

Janice Langdale  
Matt Lewis  
Pat Thorpe

Class of 2022

Jill Hensley  
Trip Jennings  
Roger Moose

Class of 2023

Jacque Fletcher  
Christine Mink  
Virginia Watkins

**MEETING OPENED**

7:00 Moderator Rev. Bill Humphreys

**DEVOTION AND PRAYER**

Trip Jennings Tattoos on the Heart

**DECLARATION OF QUORUM (1/3 of Session plus Moderator)**

Carl Allen

**Session Members Present:** All

**Session Members Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Diane Shepard (Building Committee Chair)

**DOCUMENT APPROVALS**

\*\*\* **DRAFT Stated Session Meeting Agenda** **Monday March 9, 2020**

**APPROVED**

\*\*\* **DRAFT Congregational Meeting Minutes** **Sunday February 23, 2020**

**APPROVED**

\*\*\* **DRAFT Stated Session Meeting Minutes** **Monday February 10, 2020**

**APPROVED**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY NEAR LPPC** – Jill Hensley will prepare a recommendation for Session as to whether this is a strip of land that LPPC should consider obtaining. Rev. Humphreys will send contact information to Jill, who will research and report back to Session. **No response from owner to Jill’s email inquiries about donation to LPPC; Jill circulated air photo showing property; Roger found county records indicating non-residential zoning, ¾ acre; value of \$15 K**

**LETTER FROM PLACITAS ARTISTS SERIES** – Letter (2/3/20) included an updated letter of agreement between LPPC and PAS for Session Review. Referred to Building Use Ad-Hoc Committee for recommendation to Session. **The Clerk will inform PAS that they will have a response in April and place this discussion on the April Session agenda.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**SEPTIC SYSTEM REPAIR** – LPPC has accepted the bid from The Rio Grande Septic Systems Company to replace the septic system. Basically, they will install a new 1250 gallon tank (on the other side of the playground wall), install a new leach field, and abide by regulatory permits and set-backs as required by Sandoval County. The bid is for \$8,510 and the work will start at the end of April. The company requires LPPC property documents and Karen Cox is working on locating them. In the meantime, the Building Committee is monitoring the fill level of our existing, 37 year-old tank every 2 days to determine the need for a pump out. We want to avoid a back flow into the church.

**Required forms were mailed last Saturday. We are currently on schedule or late April work.**

**Any decision regarding installing a porta-potty is left up to the Building Committee**

\*\*\* CONFIRM ON-LINE VOTE TO ACCEPT THE BID FROM RIO GRANDE SEPTIC SYSTEMS TO REPLACE THE CURRENT SEPTIC TANK AND DRAIN FIELD

**APPROVED**

**CHURCH USE POLICY** – Draft policy presented by Matt Lewis (Building Use Ad-Hoc Committee);

**The policy was presented for first reading at the March Session meeting, with a vote to be scheduled at the April meeting.**

**PLAN FOR STAYING HEALTHY UNDER THE THREAT OF COVID-19** – Discussion led by Diane Shepard and Jacque Fletcher

**Motion to create a Health and Safety Committee – Jacque Fletcher Moderator**

**APPROVED**

**DIGNITY KITS** – Discussion led by Virginia Watkins regarding a possible appeal to Presbytery Mission Committee for funds to support Dignity Kit effort

**Motion to request \$ 5,000 from Presbytery Mission Committee for Dignity Kits**

**APPROVED**

**CHURCH SAFETY AND SECURITY TRAINING** – Discussion led by Chris Mink regarding training to be offered at Rio Rancho Presbyterian Church on March 28

## **Matt, Chris, and Virginia volunteered to attend**

**MUSIC CD BY MINDY** – Following conversation with Diane, Mindy has agreed to play and Leland has agreed to record it; CD will not be sold; any donations will be split 50/50 between Mindy and LPPC. Diane will follow up on copyright issues.

## **REPORTS**

### **\* Interim Pastor's Report – Bill Humphreys**

I continue to be glad that I'm the Interim Pastor at LPPC! Frankly, I'd be just a bit happier about it if I actually lived in or closer to the Placitas area; a few activities happen at and near the church that I'd be glad to attend, such as at least some of the finance committee meetings and the building use task force. I'd be more insistent about attending some activities that, I'm guessing, you participate in after school or in the evenings. I'd be more likely to attend the Jardineros gatherings and the Monday evening book study. And perhaps more closely related to the pastoral work, I'd visit a few more members and friends of the congregation in their own homes or in the community. These are some of the things a new pastor might do; they are more likely to be accomplished with a full-time and resident pastor. (!)(?)

My month opened with a Saturday trip to LPPC for a meeting to clarify the responsibilities and support for a committee chair; the meeting was good and ended with affirmations for proceeding with some new practices. Partly, I am working on being in communication more with what's going on around the congregation and church. "Solo" pastor doesn't mean the only one around!

The next day, Ground Hog Day, a Sunday, featured the MDO parents board meeting with whom I met; discussions focused partly on a salary increase for Debbie and related issues of advertising for the program when it includes lower numbers of children and families.

The Worship Committee met briefly on Tuesday 2/4 to consider plans for Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday on 2/26 for which we had 10 people for ashes.

I attended the 2/12 luncheon and program gathering at FPC, SF, for a presentation about Ghost Ranch, a program that has only indirect connections for LPPC at this time, but includes concerns and opportunities for moving forward with all of the churches in this presbytery.

Over the long weekend from 2/13 - 2/18 I returned to Carroll University in Wisconsin for a Valentines' Day program for the Reaffirmation of Wedding Vows. 31 couples attended the reception, service, dinner and program on 2/14. Laura and I visited our two sons in southern Wisconsin, and enjoyed a typical Wisconsin snowfall on 2/17!

I attended the Presbytery Meeting on 2/22/2020 at La Mesa Presbyterian Church in the afternoon and, among other things, announced to the Presbytery the monthly gatherings for the Placitas Artist Series.

Anne Hays Egan led worship and preached in my absence on Sunday, 2/16, and Ken Cuthbertson, at his request and my participation, led worship and preached on 2/23, to celebrate the next day's 126th anniversary of the founding of the congregation.

Ash Wednesday was the 26th, as noted above. The month ended on 2/29 with a Leap Day morning of some orientation for newly elected officers and a few others, leading to their ordination/installation the next day.

I maintained the mostly-regular office hours when I was in New Mexico, with 10-4 on Mondays, 8-2 on Tuesdays, and 8:30 or 9 to 2:30 or 3:00 on most Fridays. (The first Friday of most months are days for me to attend the Presbytery's Commission on Ministry meetings at the Presbytery Office at First Church, ABQ.

**Funeral of Guillermo D. Arriola , son of Willie Arriola, presided over by Rev. Humphreys on March 7**

What else? Please let me know of your questions and/or suggestions as we move forward together!

\* **Parish Associate's Report** – Ken Cuthbertson

Friends,

February and these first days of March have had plenty going on.

Pastor Bill, Anne, and I, met on February 4 for a staff meeting, and did some planning for upcoming worship, pastoral care, and so on. We stay in regular touch, on Sundays and via e-mail, as well.

I am working with Sue Hoff on planning for Louise Mancuso's memorial service on March 20 (Louise's 80th birthday).

I called on both Paige D. and Don B. in the hospital during the month.

It was a joy to have Herman and Frances S. from the Cuba congregation with us for Adult Forum on Feb. 9 to talk about the presbytery's most recent Cuba trip last October. I also deeply appreciate the presentation by the children and youth teachers and leaders in Adult Forum on Feb. 23.

I assisted the Rev. Dr. Anne Hays Egan in worship on February 16.

The Presbytery of Santa Fe met at La Mesa, Albuquerque, on Feb. 22. I greatly appreciate Session's approval that those who wish may participate with the group of churches marching together this year's LGBTQ Pride Parade on June 13. I am continuing to work with the other churches on planning. We currently have 6-8 churches, the Young Adult Volunteers, and perhaps a group from Menaul School, involved.

I so greatly appreciate Pastor Bill's permitting me to plan, and preach at, LPPC's 126th anniversary service on Feb. 23. I hope I "did right by" LPPC and the Revs. Jose Ynes Perea and Juan Baros in the process.

I fear that Doug and I missed the Ash Wednesday service at LPPC. Given the contingencies of time, energy, and the promise of Taize' chants, we opted for St. Andrew PC in Albuquerque that night.

It's always a joy to participate in what I call "the holy scrum" (rugby) of ordination on March 1, and also to take Communion back to 9 students and teachers in the Sunday School that day.

Business and pleasure mixed in doing lunch with a new couple in the congregation on March 1.

For Lent we are doing a series in Adult Forum on The Sermon on the Mount. I am preparing the curriculum and leading most of the sessions.

On March 15, I will be leading worship and helping host the presbytery's Triennial Visit at Cuba.

The Rev. Anne Hays Egan will be preaching and leading worship at LPPC on March 22.

And... "other duties as needed/available."

\* **Clerk's Report** – Carl Allen

**STATISTICAL REPORT** – presented for Session approval. I circulated this as a draft by email during January and received no recommendations for changes. On that basis I submitted the report to PCUSA. Request formal Session approval of this report.

**APPROVED**

**PRESBYTERY RECORDS REVIEW AND CLERK OF SESSION TRAINING** – March 7 at the Presbytery Office; LPPC records were approved with minor exceptions, which are being corrected.

**GIRL SCOUT COOKIE SALE** – Request from Janice Langdale for permission for the Girl Scout troop meeting at LPPC to sell Girl Scout cookies in Fellowship Hall on Sundays was withdrawn as an email vote, pending possible Session discussion and action.

**Motion to allow the troop that meets at LPPC to sell on 3/15 after 10:30 service**

**APPROVED**

**SILK PAINTERS GUILD REQUEST**

\*\*\* CONFIRM ON-LINE VOTE TO ALLOW THE NEW MEXICO SILK PAINTERS GUILD (BUNNY BOWEN) TO PRESENT A SHOW OF THEIR ART IN FELLOWSHIP HALL DURING THE MONTH OF JULY

**APPROVED**

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

\*\*\* CONFIRM ON-LINE VOTE TO CALL A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON FEBRUARY 23 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING NEW DEACONS

**APPROVED**

**PRESBYTERY REPORT - Presbytery Meeting      February 22    La Mesa, Albuquerque**

Chris Mink and Virginia Watkins

\*      **Building** – Diane Shepard

Exterior East light bulbs purchased and replaced

Exterior West security light adjusted for use with movement

Donated David Cramer Photos have been framed and hung in the Basement, courtesy of Joan Fennicle

Barry Barker will embark on the replacement of the Sanctuary toilet and floor as well as replacement of men's urinal in men's bathroom

Hallway water fountain repaired

Supply of hand sanitizer purchased and distributed throughout the Church by Chris Mink and Pat Thorpe

West Storage room is now more accessible for storage and use of Church equipment and materials as the yoga class materials have been removed

Donated David Cramer photo prints are now stored in the basement. Labeled Blue Bins contain photo prints which are available for sale at any time and hopefully at October Holiday Sale

\*      **Casa Rosa** – Claire Harrell

No report

\*      **Christian Education** – Trip Jennings

No report

\*      **Deacons** – Sue Hoff

**DEACONS MEETING MINUTES**  
MONDAY February 10, 2020 @ 5:30

**Deacons present:** Yvonne Brown, Sue E. Hoff, Bill Lumm, Becky Margolies, and Diane Shepard

**New Business:** Wendy Ingram suggested we add to the prayer requests in the bulletin a contact person or relative in parenthesis next to their name. Seems to me that this has been done in the past with some of the names. I am not sure how doable this is but it would be a good idea. Maybe we can discuss this in our next meeting. Discussed this & thought it was a good idea. Yvonne has been working on the prayer list to update it.

As a Deacon Trainee [Becky] and new member, I have been assigned to study the church directory. I started with the Deacons as most are strangers. I couldn't find Roxie Westdyk but discovered her in going through the entire directory listed under Moose. I then noticed several joint listing under one name alphabetically. I feel it would be helpful (for new members especially) for each person to be listed and for those jointly to list each name (see other name) as not to have to repeat information. I also don't see any indication of who are Elders. After the Deacons meeting several were grouped before Elders meeting. I would like an asterisk by names indicating Elder so I can learn who's who. Probably would be useful to indicate Deacons if a member needs special support...? I am unclear as to how prayer needs are communicated...? Becky talked with Russ & he said some he would not do & others he would think about.

In Sunday Class minutes from former TX church, prayer lists are divided into "Prayers Needed" and "Celebrations" Discussed this & thought it a good idea. Will have to see if the administrator has a list which has anniversaries & birthdays.

Received letter & info from Central United Methodist Church on University Blvd, NE in ABQ. They are having a workshop: Stephen Ministry – Introductory Workshop. It is a half-day workshop featuring: Session 1: Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief; Session 2: An Introduction to Stephen Ministry; and Session 3: How to Care in a Distinctively Christian Way. It is Saturday, March 7, 2020 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Check-in is at 8:00 am. The cost is \$15/person or \$50/ congregation (four or more). To register visit [www.stephenministry.org/workshop](http://www.stephenministry.org/workshop), complete the form & return by mail, or call Stephen Ministries at (314) 428-2600. Who should attend: pastors & church staff, lay leaders & decision makers, caregivers & caregiving teams. Sue wants to go but doesn't want to drive in ABQ. Becky will see if Paul would drive them & she would attend the seminar. Sue called & both she & Becky are registered.

Read a card from Martha thanking the deacons for a variety of services/prayers.

**Comfort & Joy Prayer Shawls:** One to Martha, one to Paige, on to B.J. Firestone, & one to Laura Franklin who is Mike's wife. Mike is the brother of Jon who owns the Café.

**Communion prepared:** Communion was prepared by: Yvonne B & Bill L and served by Yvonne B/ Doug C/ Sue H/ Janice L/ Matt L/ Bill L/Chris M/ & Roger M on December 1<sup>st</sup> [trays]; & prepared by Yvonne B & served by Karen M on December 24<sup>th</sup> [intinction] & was prepared by: Yvonne B & Rpxoe W and served by Yvonne B/ Jill H/ Sue H/ Trip J/Janice L/Chris M/Diane S/ & Pat T on January 5<sup>th</sup> [trays].

**Other: Positions of Responsibility Assigned:** Could use someone to be responsible as a co-moderator. **Moderator, Minutes, Updating prayer lists** – Sue E. Hoff; **Co-Moderator** –; **Prayer Shawls** – Sally Gosnell & Diane Shepard; **Thanksgiving Baskets** – Jackie Allen, she will also take notes, & info from prayer lists at the meetings; **Treasurer** – Bill Lumm.

\* **Earth Care Fellowship** – Don Turton

Planning is underway for the Earth Day service on Sunday April 26.

I am scheduling our first Adopt-a-Highway for 2020 on March 21 at 08:30. We will meet in the Placitas Library parking lot (based on a suggestion from a long time trash picker-upper). We should be finished in plenty of time for those who want to participate in the church grounds work that is scheduled at 10:00. This may make for a long Saturday morning, but it will free up another Saturday morning. Any way, we will see how it works out.

\* **Fellowship** – Joan Dennis

No report

\* **Finance** – Matt Lewis and Mike Potter

Year to date through February 2020, total gifts and other income supporting Church Operations were \$ 28,600, and total operating expenses were \$ 25,473,; leaving LPPC a net operation gain of \$ 3,127 for 2020.

- Per capita campaign- continues through March...Stewardship and Financial Secretary will report contributing members for the April Session meeting

- **We would like to submit a motion that the Session categorize members as prescribed in the Book of Order, and request clarity on the per capita assessment from Presbytery**

**Tabled until April meeting; Rev. Humphreys will call Presbytery to request clarification regarding who counts for per capita**

- Septic maintenance- we discussed the bid, costs, and impacts for this repair
- Building Policy- draft has been reviewed by the adhoc committee and should be ready for Session review on March 9<sup>th</sup>
- Quickbooks Software upgrade- will have Karen use 75008 for update computer & software
- Administrator- **we would like to put a motion to increase the weekly allowable hours for Karen from 16 up to 20 per week.**

**APPROVED**

- Church Safety/Security- we discussed Church Safety broadly with the upcoming funeral for the murder of Mr. Arriloa's son, and recommend we address or discuss at Session

\* **Grounds** – Jill Hensley

The Grounds Committee was mostly inactive this month. Preparations are being made to create a more formal committee in order to establish more routine communication and identify leads for various grounds-related tasks. The time and talent survey responses will be used to invite interested members to

the first meeting that will be scheduled. The Grounds Committee Chair is communicating with the Building Committee Chair on the septic system repairs. The Chair will be assessing and planning mitigations for any grounds related impacts that the repairs might have. General spring planning is underway for the garden, and the Garden Committee Chair is organizing the annual volunteer clean up day, scheduled for March 21, 2020.

\* **Membership** – Wendy Ingram

Membership has been working with the 10 new LPPC members collecting their paperwork and assimilating them into the life of the church. They are being given LPPC mugs and Joan Chewning has been personally paying for Century of Faith books to give to each of them.

Wendy has been giving the Time and Talent forms to people who weren't present at the Annual Meeting. As soon as enough have been collected she will complete the 2020 spreadsheet she is creating and will then send each chair the list of people who have volunteered to help on their committee.

\* **Mission** – Sue Hoff

No report

\* **Mother's Day Out** – Debbie Stueber

Our MDO families are looking forward to another productive year! We have developed a fundraising committee that has proven to be a valuable asset. With their guidance MDO raised over \$4,000.00 at our annual Silent Auction and they have carried that momentum into 2020! We have several great ideas percolating and several coming to fruition soon! The MDO board of parents have also decided to NOT participate in this year's Las Montana's Funracer. Our families brought approximately \$1,400.00 to the table but only received \$1,200.00 back. It was considered to be lots of effort placed on the families without a great return. In to new adventures! These fundraising efforts help carry us in our low enrollment periods.

I took the 3 weeks of January off to transition my grandson's move to South Carolina. Our full-time substitute, Agueda Sosa, was in every day for me and between the regular volunteer days from parents we were able to keep MDO humming right along. I came back on February 3rd to a giant welcome back banner and cookies 

In February we made lots of hearts...butterflies, puppy dogs, caterpillars...all heart shaped  The munchkins had a Valentine's Day party where we made ice cream sundaes! Yummmm! We are all so ready for Spring!!

Thank you for your continued support and guidance!

\* **Nominating Committee** – Virginia Watkins

No report

\* **Pastor Nominating Committee** – Jill Hensley

During February, the PNC was mostly in a waiting mode until the first applications are received, reviewed, and forwarded by the Commission on Ministry. During this period, the PNC focused on completing an in-person interview script and finalized the evaluation process for ranking candidates of interest. The PNC Chair also worked to arrange a posting for the designated pastor position in the Christian Century – included in March 11 issue. Updates on the PNC progress will continue to be posted in the monthly newsletter and Sunday bulletin as available.

PNC Timeline

July 2019	Aug-Sep	Oct-Nov	Dec 2019	Jan 2020	Feb-Mar	Apr-May	Jun July 2020
Update Mission Study	Obtain Congregational input and conduct analysis	Write Minister Information Form (MIF)	Obtain Session and COM approvals	Submit MIF and establish evaluation/interview process	Screen candidates	Select candidates and conduct interviews/reference checks	Finalize and approve nominee

\* **Personnel** – Pat Thorpe and Roger Moose

Eloise Sanchez joined the committee

\* **Stewardship** – Janice Langdale and Virginia Watkins

No change in Stewardship numbers since the February report

\* **Worship & Music** – Chris Mink

The 126th anniversary of the founding of Las Placitas Presbyterian Church was celebrated on February 23. The Rev. Ken Cuthbertson preached a sermon that highlighted the lives of Jose L.A. Gurule and Rev. Jose Perea, the first Hispanic Presbyterian minister in the U.S.A., two men who were instrumental in founding the church. On Ash Wednesday, February 26, The Rev. Bill Humphreys led the service at 7 PM in the sanctuary. The committee has ordered palms for Palm Sunday and inserts for the spring flower orders for Easter will be included in the bulletins on March 22, March 29, and April 5. The price for the Easter Lilies this year is \$12.00. The plants will be delivered shortly before Easter Sunday, and they will be fresh from a local grower, Alameda Greenhouse. Elliot Smith shared that the congregation will be joining with the choir to sing Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" on Easter Sunday!

Average attendance for February: 95 (including 8:30 service, Adult Forum, and 10:30 service)

**CALENDAR**

**Session Meeting**

**April 13**

**Devotion and lock-up schedule**

March	Trip Jennings
April	Virginia Watkins
May	Carl Allen
June	Pat Thorpe
July	Matt Lewis
August	Jill Hensley
September	Roger Moose
October	Chris Mink
November	Jacque Fletcher
December	Virginia Watkins

**SESSION MEETING ADJOURNED WITH PRAYER** 9:52

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED – CARL ALLEN, CLERK OF SESSION**