

Presbyterian Church of Lake Travis
Session Meeting Minutes
November 27, 2018

Location: 14820 Hamilton Pool Road, Bee Cave, TX

Session Members in attendance: Rev David Evans, Moderator; Chrystie Thrasher; Dom Cavalucci; Nancy Vanzandt; Peggy Cook, Aida Faris and Steve Gottlieb. Additionally, Pam McGovney Mitchell and Carolyn Gottlieb also attended the meeting as guests.

Rev Evans opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Minutes; Minutes of the October 30th session meeting.

Motion: Chrystie Thrasher, second: Nancy Vanzandt; Unanimously Approved

Moderator's Report

David thanked the session for the prayers that had been offered on the first anniversary of the passing of David's wife, Linda.

Committee Reports

Finance—Report attached. As Nancy Boenitz, Treasurer, was unable to attend, Steve gave a very brief overview of finances as well as a brief summary of stewardship pledges to date. Pledges are not what we have hoped for so far, as the total of pledges is approximately \$130,000. There are still a number of members/friends who have not pledged as well as some who have pledged less than they had in the previous year. Additionally, there are several members/friends who have not fulfilled this year's pledge, nor the pro-rata portion of this year's pledge. We are hoping that some who have said they are waiting until the new pastor is known, will then complete their pledge.

Worship—Chrystie announced that she had filled the Pulpit for most Sundays through December and January, should that be necessary. Chrystie also said that the worship committee meeting was extremely productive and all were working well together. Chrystie is now sending letters of thanks and appreciation to all of the folks who have assisted us in filling the pulpit. Chrystie also commented that thanks to Laura Walter, we are better prepared to be leaders in the conduct of worship services at our church. Additionally, many of our members/friends feel especially good about our being so involved in the conduct of church services during these months with supply pastors. (See attached report for more information)

Hospitality—Nancy V reported that all is going well for the Christmas party at the Buenz's and her committee is preparing for the I AM LT round robin at PCLT on January 27, 2019. (Report attached)

Christian Education---Peggy reported on the various classes currently scheduled for the balance of the year and several classes suggested for January. There was also a discussion of who would chair that committee when Peggy rolls off session at the end of December. It was agreed that Aida will serve as session liaison and both she and Peggy will work to come up with a chair person. (Report attached.)

Property -Dom reported that he was having difficulty getting the Narthex Light vendor to fulfill his obligation—still working the problem. Additionally, Dom and Scott Pierson researched the cost of redoing the labyrinth and found the cost to be excessive—in excess of \$11,000. That project has been tabled.

Mission & Outreach—Report attached. Steve confirmed that the I AM LT Round Robin is planned for us on Sunday January 27th. We also discussed the “gift” that the other churches may want to bring to PCLT. The suggestion that all seemed to agree with is that the churches bring some sort of a symbol from their own church and that depending on the actual item, it should either be used directly or a painted copy of it made and all of them together be used to create a work of art to remain displayed at PCLT. Steve and Pam M McGovney Mitchell will help figure out how that is to be explained to the I AM LT persons.

It was also announced by Pam that a dinner for the folks in the English-Speaking class would be held on December 6th: To be paid out of the M&O budget.

Finally, M&O had been tasked to recommend a policy to the session, that would cover situations in which Debi could use her own discretion about handing out food cards to people who show up at our front door and when we either we do not have a pastor, or the pastor is out for a time. That was done; the M&O committee recommended “that we recommend to the session that they (the session) establish a policy that the church administrator be allowed to give food cards not to exceed \$50, and not to exceed more than once a month to any one the administrator deems needy. Additionally, a log of name, date, and amount of money given to the recipient be maintained”. The session amended that recommendation to change the frequency to not more than once every three months. Thus, the final recommendation was that:

We establish a policy that the church administrator be allowed to give food cards not to exceed \$50, and not to exceed more than once every three months to any one the administrator deems needy. That the administrator use this policy only when PCLT has no pastor, or the pastor is going to be unreachable for an extended period. Additionally, a log of name, date, and amount of money given to the recipient is to be maintained
As this came from a committee, there was no need of a second. **The motion passed Unanimously.** (See attached report)

David suggested that it might be a good idea for us to see about getting an article published in the Presbyterian Outlook, as they often want to highlight especially good work that a church is going. Steve will follow that up.

Old Business

Carolyn Gottlieb made a presentation to the session re: the current status of the PNC's work on selecting a new designated pastor for PCLT. Carolyn gave a brief history of both the work and time frame within which the PNC had been working. Most interesting, however, was that the PNC had made its selection and the person selected had accepted. **The selected person is the Rev. Dr. Jack Barden.** The announcement was met literally with cheers from all on the session. Carolyn did present not only what the discernment process was like for them, but also a brief history of the Reverend Barden's relationship with PCLT. As it turns out, Jack's history with us goes back to the first time he had preached at PCLT, in 2007 and then quite a few times between then and his recent times with us. The session congratulated and thanked the PNC for their work and for having selected such an incredible pastor.

Steve then made a motion that there be a called congregational meeting on December 9th, following church service, for the sole purpose of the congregation to vote on the terms of call for Rev. Barden. Nancy V seconded the motion which passed UNNANAMOUSLY.

In summary the terms of call include a combined salary and housing allowance of \$75K, an up to \$2K one-time payment to offset some of the costs of moving even closer to the church—a request that many in the congregation had made for the new pastor. The other elements of his terms of call are similar if not the same as they had been when Rev Walters was our pastor: 6 weeks of personal leave (vacation and sick leave) \$2400 for professional expenses and ½ SECA (self-employment taxes) and the normal payments to the board of pensions.

As to the question of congregational notification, Steve will announce the meeting at church service this Sunday, December 2 and again at church service on December 9th. Our by-laws expressly say that we need to announce any called congregational meeting on two consecutive Sundays and then we can hold that meeting on the same Sunday as the second announcement. This is exactly what we are going to do.

There was also a brief discussion on holding small group meetings both for information exchange and to introduce Rev. Barden to all of the members/friends of PCLT. The details of this are to be worked out between the session and the PNC.

It was decided that the date of the annual congregational meeting would be delayed until the Rev Barden was on board.

New Business


A letter from Lynn Fisher to the session (attached) was then read into the record. Lynn had among other things requested that financial information be provided in advance of the annual meeting to allow members to read and digest the information. It was also agreed and Steve will pass that information on to Nancy Boenitz.

A motion to require that budget information be sent out in advance of the annual meeting was made by Aida and seconded by Chrystie. Passed Unanimously.

Lynn's letter also requested that proxies be allowed when members will not be able to attend. That is prohibited by both our By Laws and by the Book of Order. There is nothing more to do on that subject.

The date of the next session meeting will be Sunday, December 23rd after church service. It was agreed that this meeting would be short.

Steve Moved to Adjourn and Nancy seconded. Passed Unanimously --- David Closed the meeting with Prayer



Submitted by Steve Gottlieb, Clerk of Session



Reverend David Evans, Moderator