

# **Bonhomme Presbyterian Church**

## **Regularly Scheduled Session Meeting**

**September 17, 2019**

### **Those Attending:**

Mike Boland, Fred Breitenwischer, Jenny Brown, John Green, Robby Cella, Phil Hargrove, Deb Hawley, Steve Lucas, Jeanne Luther, Rita Peterson, Chad Schrieber, Jenni Stecher, Don Everts, Cliff VanIttersum, Keith Whittemore,

### **Guests:**

From RiverTree Church - Cris Heffernan, Paul Schroeder, DeAnn Feltz, Chris Macky by phone

### **Opening the Meeting:**

Following dinner, fellowship, passing of the peace, singing and prayer, a quorum was declared, and the meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Pastor Phil Hargrove.

### **Ministry and Committee Reports:**

#### **RiverTree Elders presented their Annual Ministry Report.**

- Adult Ministry – Pam Douthit – reported exciting activities of adult ministry groups.
- Children’s Ministry – Jeanne Luther - VBS boasted over 270 children – a new record! – and 120 volunteers from all generations; we launched a weekly video series of Bible lessons taught by various gifted volunteers and our awesome new director (Thomas); and capped off the summer with an all-church ice cream social welcoming Robby Cella and his family with over 200 people in attendance. This Fall we are launching new offerings for Sunday mornings: Tree House, a time of kid-friendly worship during the 8:30am Traditional Service; Kid’s Church – a highly active, and interactive children’s worship service during the 11:00am services; and brought back by popular demand the Kingdom Parents Class will be led by Jessica Black and Susie Mondello during growth hour. New on Wednesday nights from 6:15pm – 7:45pm for Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, we are offering a very friendship-oriented active time with games, worship and a short, relatable Biblical message.
- Budget & Finances – Rita Peterson – In August, Bonhomme recognized \$190,023 of operating revenue and \$204,323 of expenses, generating a deficit of (\$14,300) for the month. This reduces our year to date surplus to \$45,683 putting us in a good position as we start the new program year. In comparison, we entered the new program year in 2018 with a (\$13,903) deficit.

- Community Care – Jenni Stecher – the various ministry groups are very active seeing to the needs of our Covenant Partners.
- Guest Ministry – Deb Hawley – Two new families attended service on 9/1 and one of them completed a connection card. Two guests provided email addresses and a welcome email was sent to them on 9/12. Still struggling to find host volunteers for Contemporary Worship
- Human Resources Commission – Cliff VanIttersum – First Staff Recognition program to be held Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>, and quarterly thereafter. Program will recognize anniversaries and birthdays.
- Nominations and Lay Leadership - Cliff VanIttersum – NLL has begun the recruiting process for the class of 2023.
- Ad Hoc Committee to Draft Rules of the Session – Deb Hawley and Steve Lucas - Elder Hawley is preparing a preliminary comparison of the Rules of the Session from IPC in Memphis with the BPC Policies and Procedures recently discovered by John Green.
- Stewardship – Jeff Erkert – Submitted an overview of Stewardship Campaign 2019 - 2020
- Worship – Jenny Brown and Chad Schrieber - The Worship Ministry requests a fundraiser on behalf of the Bonhomme Concert Series. This fundraiser will involve presenting a show in January in the Bonhomme Sanctuary. Proceeds from the show will be split among the Bonhomme Concert Series and another Bonhomme related charity
- Pastor’s Report – Phil Hargrove – Looking ahead to the fall, we will seek to build on the momentum created by Don’s August sermon series based on his book, *The Reluctant Witness: Discovering the Art of Spiritual Conversations*. Our Church Transformation Consultation will be November 6-11. Dr. Paul Borden will lead us in a time of resetting our focus on the Great Commission and making disciples.
- Attendance at Worship – Unite Service, September 8, 2019 438 in attendance.

### **Old Business**

- The discussion of polity as it pertains to Session’s approval of Baptism was tabled until the next Session Meeting. In the meantime, Jeanne Luther will form a committee to review and update the established processes for interviewing and approving candidates for Baptism and report during the next Session Meeting.
- The discussion of the role of Ruling Elders, Deacons and Staff Members was tabled until we receive comments from Dr. Paul Borden, our Church Transformation Consultant. This item will be dropped from Old business for the time being.

- Following her conversation with Cindy Lewin and prior to the Session Meeting, Elder Douthit confirmed to Clerk Lucas that Cindy Lewin does indeed want to be removed from the roles of BPC.

**Motions and Decisions:**

- On September 2, 2019 an e-mail motion was forwarded to Session Members requesting a vote on the following motion by September 3, 2019 at 8:00 PM. The motion read:

“Bonhomme would like to formally recognize and celebrate Mary Oldfield’s ministry at Bonhomme by naming her Children’s Ministry Director Emeritus. As a visible recognition of her service to Christ Jesus and the children of Bonhomme we would like to rename the Grow and Go Zone as the Oldfield Grow and Go Zone. Now retired, Mary laid the foundation of faith and Scripture for many of our Bonhomme Covenant children.”

The motion was approved unanimously.

- Following a unanimous e-mail vote to authorize an e-mail vote on three motions, the following motions were sent to the session on August 29, 2019. The e-mail votes were requested by August 29, 2019 at 8:00 PM. The three motions read as follows:

1. It is moved to approve the following amended policy:

“It has been and shall continue to be Bonhomme Presbyterian Church’s (BPC’s) policy that no entity, (entity meaning individual, organization or group) that is not part of, or directly affiliated with BPC, may use the BPC campus or any part thereof for its fundraising activities. In addition, no non-BPC or BPC affiliated entity, may use BPC’s name or any version of it in its fundraising materials.

Bonhomme Sponsored Groups (BSG) may seek an exception from this policy by requesting permission to use a BPC facility or a BPC name in their fundraising activities from the BPC Session’s prior to an event. The BSG will be overseen by a representative of the Ministry having oversight responsibility.

For purposes of this policy, a Bonhomme Sponsored Group (BSG) shall mean an entity not affiliated with BPC, that for purposes of Ministry or Missions, acts in some manner to advance BPC’s vision and/or objectives. In order to become or continue as a BSG, the entity must be sponsored by a Ministry Elder and approved by the Session. The Sponsored entity shall be under the oversight of the sponsoring Ministry.”

2. It is moved to approve Forte Chamber Orchestra as a Bonhomme Sponsored Group.
3. It is moved to approve Forte Chamber Orchestra conducting fund raising activities at Bonhomme as part of their September 29, 2019 Concert at Bonhomme.

All three motions were unanimously approved by e-mail.

- Cliff VanIttersum moved that Cindy Lewin be removed from the roles in accordance with her request. The motion was seconded by Chad Schrieber. The motion was approved by voice vote.
- Cliff VanIttersum moved that Session approve the Baptism of Katie and Jeff Miller's son Ryan on October 13, 2019. The motion was seconded by Mike Boland. The motion was approved by voice vote.
- Cliff VanIttersum moved that Session approve the Baptism of Drew and Katelyn Williams' son Mason on October 13, 2019. The motion was seconded by Mike Boland. The motion was approved by voice vote.
- Keith Whittemore moved that Session approve the production of The Forgotten Carols with the intent of splitting ticket proceeds beyond expenses between the Bonhomme Concert Series and another charity to be determined through discussion with the Mission Ministry. The motion was seconded by Chad Schrieber. The motion was approved by voice vote.
- Cliff VanIttersum moved that Session approve a Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing officers. The Meeting will be held on September 29, 2019. If the candidates are approved, their ordination will occur on October 20, 2019. The motion was seconded by Chad Schrieber. The motion was approved by voice vote.
- Don Everts moved that Session approve honoring Dr. Tom Pfizenmaier as Senior Pastor Emeritus of Bonhomme Presbyterian Church and name Adult Classroom 3208 as "Tom's Classroom." Dr. Pfizenmaier will be honored at the September 2020 Unite Service, The motion was seconded by Keith Whittemore. The motion was approved by voice vote.
- It was moved that the minutes for the August 20, 2019 Session Meeting be approved. An e-mail vote was conducted on September 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The motion was approved by e-mail 11 yes, 0 No one absent.
- Cliff VanIttersum moved that Session approve a Stewardship goal of \$2,450,000. The motion was seconded by Don Everts. The motion was approved by voice vote.
- Don Evert moved that Session approve paying for the Pancake Breakfast from the Session Budget. The estimated cost would be about \$600. The motion was seconded by Deb Hawley. The motion was approved by voice vote.

**Next Session Meeting:**

**The next Session meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2019 the fourth Tuesday in October beginning at 6:00 PM.**

**Closing the Meeting:**

The meeting was closed in prayer and singing and adjourned by the Moderator.

Submitted Respectfully:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen H. Lucas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "S".

Stephen H. Lucas  
Clerk of the Session  
September 18, 2019