

**Bonhomme Presbyterian Church**  
**Regularly Scheduled Session Meeting**

**December 18, 2019**

**Those Attending:**

Jenny Brown, Robby Cella, Pam Douthit, Don Everts, John Green, Phil Hargrove, Deb Hawley, Steve Lucas, Rita Peterson, Chad Schrieber, Jenni Stecher, Cliff VanIttersum

**Opening the Meeting:**

This Regularly Scheduled Session Meeting was originally scheduled for December 17, 2019. However, due to weather, the meeting was postponed to December 18, 2019.

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

**Ministry and Committee Reports:**

- **Budget & Finances** – Rita Peterson – In November, Bonhomme recognized \$172,218 of operating revenue and \$235,097 of expenses generating a deficit of (\$62,879) for the month. This brings us to a year to date deficit of (\$73,446). We need to continue to be mindful of not incurring unnecessary expenses regardless of the remaining ministry budgets as we progress through the remaining few weeks of the year with the goal of breaking even for the year.
- **Children’s Ministry** – Jeanne Luther - With an emphasis on discipleship, Kid’s Ministry is focused on bringing in new families, making them feel welcomed and loved on, and growing each child and their parents deeper in their walk with Jesus.
- **Community Care** – Jenni Stecher –the class enjoyed a Christmas celebration and filled Christmas Stockings for Delmar Garden Residents. This had been a tradition for 10 years. The students will pass out the stockings on Sunday, December 8th. Remaining times in class was hearing the Christmas story, games and crafts
- **Guest Ministry** – Deb Hawley - A small group has formed from the 11/14 guest dinner. The group met at Robby’s at the end of November and one of the families from that group will host in December.
- **Human Resources Commission** – Rita Peterson – Met with Ann B. Prenatt, Simply Successful, LLC, to present her credentials and consulting services for the HRC’s consideration. Ann specializes in delivering customized systems and human resources solutions.

- **Nominations and Lay Leadership** - Cliff VanIttersum – NLL will continue to search for 4 Elders and 12 Deacons for the Class of 2023. Until the session decides what direction the future transformation proposals will be accepted, we will proceed as in prior years.

NLL has compiled a list of elder and deacon candidates and will make calls to ascertain interest in serving. This could be interesting as we are not fully sure that they will serve for 3 years due to re-structuring of the church governance.

- **Worship** – Chad Schrieber - Worship Ministry will present at the March Deacon Meeting. We expect a lively meeting, with participative interaction.
- **Prescriptions Proposal** – Chad Schrieber - recommend we formally assemble a sub-committee to investigate the prescriptions put forth by Dr. Borden, with the goal of having a refined set of recommendations for the Annual Meeting in March. This sub-committee should have the ability to form smaller focus groups to look into various aspects of possible recommendations
- **Pastor's Report** – Phil Hargrove - participated in the third Transformation Cohort this year in Newark, NJ with Dr. Paul Borden & other ECO pastors on December 8 and 9. It is always helpful hearing where other churches are in the process and from the pastors themselves. There has also been energy and time invested in the results and follow up from the Consultation.

Phil and Cary enjoyed hosting a guest dinner in our home. Most of the couples were in their 30s with a bevy of children. Robby Cella and his Guest Ministry team were instrumental with the details.

## **New Business**

- **Pastor Phil Hargrove** asked Session to join with him in reading and affirming ten resolutions regarding Session interactions and conducting business as a body.
- **Elder Rita Peterson** raised the cost of the sending eight people to the January ECO Conference in Dallas, TX and asked Session to approve the expenditure of \$12,000 which will cover registration fees and transportation and living expenses.
- **Elder Jenni Stecher** asked how the cost of the Getty performance paid and who authorized the expenditure. Pastor Phil explained that the \$16,000 cost was paid by an anonymous donor. Elder Stecher also asked how were the “Gift Cards” authorized. Executive Director Green explained that the Gift Cards were purchased last year and not all were used.
- **Elder Deb Hawley** asked, what is Session's response when asked if there will be a congregational vote in March. Who will take the lead on replying to emails regarding this matter? Clerk Lucas offered to reply to e-mails asking Session questions about the prescription process. Clerk Lucas stated that if he did not know the answer, he would get the answer and share his response with Session.

- **Recess** - The Session took a recess from approximately 7:00 PM to approximately 8:00 PM in order to participate in the Town Hall meeting to discuss the prescriptions. Approximately 60 Covenant Partners attended. Following the Town Hall meeting Session resumed its meeting and discussed the questions and comments.
- Consider forming a Working Team to investigate the prescriptions put forth by Dr. Borden, with the goal of having a refined set of recommendations for the Annual Meeting in March. This topic was discussed at length. Considering that the Annual Congregational meeting is in early March, not much time is available to fully develop Bonhomme's version of the prescriptions. The discussion resulted in the motion from Don Everts as recorded below.
- Consider forming a Working Team to develop a Leadership Training and Development Program for Bonhomme that would seek to strengthen Christian thought and practice built around our Presbyterian Standards. Due to a lack of time, this issue was tabled for discussion at the next Session meeting.
- How do we uphold Scriptural, Confessional, and Presbyterian Standards as the People of God in a largely non-Christian culture? Due to a lack of time, this issue was tabled for discussion at the next Session meeting.
- Keith Whittemore confirmed his decision to resign from the Bonhomme Session effective as of his November 21, 2019 letter of resignation to Pastor Hargrove.

### **Motions and Decisions:**

- A motion was made by Pastor Don Everts and seconded by Jenni Stecher that Session approve:
  - Called Session Meeting Minutes from November 10, 2019
  - Session Meeting Minutes from November 19, 2019
  - Called Congregational Meeting Minutes from November 24, 2019
  - Called Session Meeting Minutes from December 4, 2019

The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

- A motion was made by Elder Rita Peterson and seconded by Don Everts that Session approve an expenditure up to \$12,000 for fees and travel and living expenses to enable eight individuals to attend the ECO Conference in Dallas, TX. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.
- A motion was made by Pastor Don Everts and seconded by Pam Douthit that Session appoint three leaders who would assemble their own teams of Elders, Deacons or Covenant Partners to refine Bonhomme's approach to making disciples and expanding the Kingdom of Heaven. Team responsibilities would include the following:

- Team 1 led by Pastor Robby Cella, would develop a process for discipleship which would better align and integrate BPC's Mission, Vision, Worship Services, Leadership Structure, and ministry activities to focus the entire Church on telling those outside the Church about our Lord Jesus Christ. The process will consider BPC's theological context. Special attention will be given to refining BPC's Mission and Vision statements so that they are simple, unambiguous, and easily remembered.
- Team 2 led by Executive Director John Green would investigate combining the two traditional services into one service. The team would recommend the best times for both the combined traditional and contemporary services. The team would develop a plan and schedule for Sunday Schools and other Sunday activities for both adults and children. In addition the team will comment on the efficiencies to be gained by these alignments.
- Team 3 led by Pastor Phil Hargrove would investigate best practices for aligning the leadership structure of the Church. The team will then recommend how best to configure BPC's leadership resources in order to fulfill the Mission and Vision and the changes necessitated by Teams 1 & 2 recommendations.

Pastor Don Everts will work with all three teams and provide overall guidance and input as they require.

Clerk Lucas will provide inter-Team communication and/or coordination as needed and will keep Session apprised of issues and progress.

The results of these team efforts will be presented along with implementation plans and schedules at the Annual Congregational Meeting to be held on March 29, 2019.

A Called Session Meeting will be held January 14, 2019 to allow Session to interact with the team leaders as they form their working concepts.

The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

### **Next Session Meeting:**

The next regularly scheduled Session meeting is Tuesday, January 21, 2019 beginning at 6:00 PM. There will be a called Session meeting on Tuesday, January 14, 2019 at 6:00 PM for the purpose of reviewing the progress of the Discipleship study teams. The Annual Congregational meeting will be Sunday, March 29, 2019 at a time to be determined.

**Closing the Meeting:**

The meeting was closed in prayer 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 initial "S" and "L".

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