

College Hill Presbyterian Church
Session Minutes – Stated Meeting – Zoom Video Call
September 8, 2020

The stated meeting of the Session of College Hill Presbyterian Church was held at 6:00 p.m. by Zoom video call on September 8, 2020. **Rev. Todd Freeman** moderated, and Bill Nole opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

The agenda was approved as presented. A quorum was present.

Ruling Elders present

Class of 2020: Terry Baxter, Sue Haskins, Bill Nole

Class of 2021: Mary Ann Bumgarner, Clay Finck-Ward, Gretchen Hrachovec, Chris Newsome

Class of 2022: Alexia Medlock, Fred Schone, Mark Thurston, Susan West

Excused absence: Becky Doyle

Guest

Todd Redding

Clerk's Report

- ❖ **Approved Minutes of Stated Meeting August 11, 2020.**

Pastor's Report

- ❖ Heavily involved with the Synod of the Sun's new Dismantling Racism Network, assigned to the team that is preparing a Synod Imagine event on June 2-3, 2021, here in Tulsa, with a focus on the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, past, present, and future. This event will precede the Tri-Presbytery meeting at First Presbyterian, Tulsa, on June 4-5, 2021.
- ❖ Still part of Cimarron Presbytery's book study group of *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin DiAngelo.
- ❖ Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery will be starting its own book study, most likely of *Good White Racist: Confronting Your Role in Racial Injustice* by Kerry Connelly, published by Westminster/John Knox Press.
- ❖ Part of many Zoom video meetings. All good.

New Business

- a. Commissioner Susan West reported on the Zoom meeting of the EOP on August 25, 2020.
- b. Schedule Congregational Meeting to elect Ruling Elders.
 - **Moved, seconded and approved to set a Called Virtual Congregational Meeting to elect Ruling Elders on Sunday, October 25, 2020, at 10:30 a.m.**
- c. Black Lives Matter. Discussed joining with some other predominantly white churches in town to have a Black Lives Matter mural painted on the church parking lots, with associated public statements renouncing the complicity of white churches in 1921 and the BLM mural as a metaphor for black-white relationships in the city today. Artists have volunteered, and we could help. We would pay for paint.
 - **Moved, seconded and approved by acclamation the painting of a Black Lives Matter mural on the parking lot.**

Old Business

- ❖ Building signage update. New sign probably installed in a couple of weeks.

Ministry Team Reports

- ❖ **Re-union:** Report received. Continuing to meet and study the metrics. It is felt an initial letter from the Session giving a general overview of our planning should be mailed to the congregation, followed later by the more detailed FAQ document and COVID-19 policy. The following motions were approved:

- While marginal improvement in COVID-19 metrics has occurred, it is insufficient to recommend setting a date for Phase One reopening. There is concern about the impact of the Labor Day holiday weekend and recent reopening of schools in the area. College Hill shall remain closed to in-person activities indefinitely, with continued monitoring of metrics and reconsideration at the next Session Meeting on October 13.
 - Mail an informational letter from the Session to the congregation.
 - Adopt the COVID-19 Pandemic Policy for College Hill.
- ❖ **Building and Grounds**: Verbal report. The sewer break was fixed, along with an issue with water running in the basement.
- ❖ **Christian Education**: Report received. Virtual rally day will occur during children's time at the September 20 service. Team members will take special bags to the kids. Curriculum choices were outlined. The following motion was approved:
 - **Approve the chosen curriculum for each age group.**
- ❖ **Congregational Care**: Verbal report. Celebrated Betty Coleman's 90th birthday with a couple of yard events. Team is caring for several members who are facing needs from surgeries, and COVID.
- ❖ **Fellowship**: Verbal report. No activities.
- ❖ **Finance & Stewardship**: Report received. Instructed Session members to prepare for 2021 Budget as if this were a normal year. Reminder to send in funding requests in a timely manner. The following motion was approved:
 - **Receive the August 2020 Financial Report by acclamation.**
- ❖ **Nominating**: Verbal report. Forms have been sent out for nominations.
- ❖ **Outreach and Mission**: Report received. Starting to receive feedback on needs from Kendall-Whittier. Working on budget. The following motion was approved:
 - **Collect the Peace and Global Witness offering on October 4.**
- ❖ **Personnel**: Verbal report. Recognized the team for great experience and work. Working on ways to get to know staff better, and provide appropriate recognitions. The following motion was approved:
 - **Provide a one-time staff bonus of \$250 each for efforts this year during the pandemic.**
- ❖ **Technology & Communication**: Verbal report. Working with the new equipment and tinkering with live streaming.
- ❖ **Visitor & New Member Nurture**: Verbal report. No activities.
- ❖ **Worship & Music**: Report received. Continuing work on FAQ document on what to expect when the church reopens. Working toward live streaming. The following motion was approved:
 - **Hold outdoor worship service with communion in the parking lot October 4, 2020, in conjunction with Green Team activities.**

A motion to adjourn was approved, and the meeting closed at 7:38 p.m. with a prayer by **Rev. Todd Freeman**, and a virtual hug.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Brandon, Clerk of Session

Rev. Todd Freeman, Moderator