

## SESSION MEETING SUMMARY – NOVEMBER 11 & 25, 2020

- **ANNUAL REPORT:** The due date for submissions to the 2020 Annual Report is January 6, 2021, contributors will be contacted by Audrey Grassman, the report will be available prior to the Annual Meeting of February 7, 2021.
- **BSA FILING:** Boy Scouts of America commenced cases under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, partially due to multiple sexual molestation allegations and claims filed against BSA. To protect our church, it is advisable to file a General Proof of Claim. It was reported at the November 25, 2020 meeting that the papers had been filed.
- **COMMUNICATION:** Following conversation with the Deacon Moderator about new ways to keep the congregation informed, Session Meeting Summaries will be posted on the MCPC website ([www.mcpconline.org](http://www.mcpconline.org)). *You are welcome to contact a serving Elder with any questions.*
- **COVID PROTOCOLS:** A Protocol for Use of MCPC Interior Space was approved. Please contact a Session member if you would like to see the Protocol.
- **DEACONS:** Approved two proposals from the Board of Deacons:
  - Donations to MCHPP (Midcoast Hunger Prevention Program) of \$250 for Thanksgiving and \$250.00 for Christmas;
  - Donations to both The Gathering Place and Tedford Shelter of \$100 for Thanksgiving and \$100 for Christmas.
- **DEACONS—SHEPHERD PROGRAM:** The Board of Deacons has assumed responsibility for the MCPC Shepherding Program. Individual Elders and Deacons each are regularly in touch with a small group of congregation members to check in, be aware of congregational concerns, provide support, and communicate the wellbeing of the congregation back to the Deacons and the Pastor. *Please let us know if we have missed you in the transition!*
- **FINANCE:** The Treasurer reported that income is down through both decreased offerings and a loss of anticipated contribution from Bright Start due to their current pandemic-related closure; expenses are somewhat less than usual. Prospects for pledges for the coming year are not known.
- **NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Elders Stan Miller and Audrey Grassman will co-chair the Nominating Committee and hope to bring a full slate to the Annual Meeting, which has been set for February 7, 2021.

- **OUTSIDE BUILDING USERS:**
  - We received a request from Midcoast Maine Community Action (MMCA) to use space in our church twice a month for WIC nutritionists to meet with clients; MMCA has protocols for dealing with COVID and insurance. A **MOTION** was made to allow them to use the West Room and the bathrooms and **APPROVED** by majority vote with one dissention.
  - Page Lockhart will draft a MCPC protocol addressing groups using our facilities amid the Covid pandemic. When the protocol is approved by Session it will be provided to Building Coordinator Marci Clark who in turn will inform MMCA.
- **PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Personnel Committee made the following recommendations, which were approved by Session:
  - Vacation for the pastor from Monday Dec. 14 through Sunday Dec. 20, 2020.
  - Given that Pastor Diane has been unable to use her 2020 travel allotment funds due to COVID-19, those funds will be reallocated to Study Leave expenses and carry over to 2021.
- **PLEDGES FOR 2021.** Pledge Campaign 2021 was discussed with the intention to Dedicate pledges on December 13, the third Sunday in Advent (Joy Sunday).
- **PUMPKIN PATCH:** Results of the Pumpkin Patch were received from Shirley Reese – 2020 was the best year ever with sales of over \$14,400. The amount due the Pumpkin Patch organization is 75% of sales; higher sales change the amount due to 66%. Session unanimously approved the request to honor the 75% as represented during the Pumpkin Patch.
- **REPORTS FROM STAFF & COMMITTEES:** Reports were received from the Pastor, Treasurer, Moderator of Deacons, and Bright Start Board. Committee Reports were received from Worship and Music Team, Property Committee (including the renewal of the annual Snow Plowing Contract), Building Use Coordinator, and Special Offerings.
- **SESSION RECORDS KEEPING:** Clerk Stan Miller and past Clerk Shirley Reese attended the annual reading of Session Minutes. Items requiring follow-up were addressed.
- **SPECIAL GIFTS TO THE CHURCH:** With gratitude and thanks, Session received the following gifts in November 2020.
  - a rocking chair for our sanctuary from the Reeses.
  - an Outdoor Nativity Set from members of the congregation. It is hoped the new Nativity, included with outdoor decorations this year, will help the community know we are still active, even though the building is not currently open.

- **SPECIAL OFFERINGS:**
  - Giving to the *Peace & Global Witness Special Offering* for 2020 was \$247.00. \$61.75 went to Restorative Justice Institute, and \$185.25 went to PCUSA.
  - The *Joy Offering* will be from Christmas to Epiphany.
  - *Alternative Christmas Market* – will be listed in the Update and a webpage post with information about organizations and how people can make donations directly to them as alternative gifts. Organizations that MCPC supports include: Heifer, Habitat, MCHPP, Tedford, TGP, Ceoli, and PCUSA Giving Catalog.
- **TECHNOLOGY:** Recognizing our increasing use of technology for both administration and worship, we are looking into creating a Technology Committee and *welcome anyone interested in serving.*
- **WORSHIP – ADVENT PRAYERS:** Approved Advent Prayers, a drop-in prayer opportunity on November 29, the first Sunday of Advent.
- **WORSHIP ACCESS:** We continue to be concerned about those who are not able to access Sunday worship via Zoom or Facebook. Elder Page Lockhart has been reaching out to offer her help in getting connected. *If we can be of any help, please let us know!*