

SESSION STATED MEETING SUMMARY – DECEMBER 9, 2020

- The Session addressed a change to the MCPC By-Laws regarding holding church meetings online. The following motion was passed and will be brought to the Annual Meeting for Congregational Vote to update the By-Laws.
MOTION: That the following statement be added to our church by-laws effective January 1, 2020. “Effective January 1, 2020 meetings of the congregation, its Session, Board of Deacons, commissions, and committees may meet face-to-face by teleconference or videoconference, or a combination thereof, provided that full opportunity for simultaneous communication is available to all members and that minutes are duly kept and approved.”
APPROVED
- The Pastor’s Report was received. Highlights included Pastor Diane’s attendance at the PNNE Assembly meeting (Dec 5, 2020) where a portion of the meeting was devoted to the celebration of Rev. Cindy Kohlmann, Resource Presbyterian, as she is leaving PNNE; plans for Christmas worship; and an update on the impact of power outages on Sunday worship. Pastor Diane has been invited by the Maine Council of Churches to create a holiday season PSA aimed at encouraging people of faith to keep their communities safe this year as we celebrate Christmas during a pandemic.
- A report on Bright Start was received from out-going Director Eileen Twiddy, informing Session how Bright Start anticipates they would handle reopening from a staffing and COVID protocol perspective.
- A report was received from the Property Committee. The report highlighted that Property is keeping up with routine safety system maintenance (sprinklers, emergency exit lights, and fire alarms) and that Fall cleanup and preparation of the building for Winter were successfully completed. It was noted that, due to code changes, an emergency shut off switch must be installed outside the boiler room.
- A report was received from the Personnel Committee. Included were recommendations that Pastor Diane attend her virtual Transforming Community retreats at a local hotel; that Session continue to support purchases of technology needed for Pastor Diane to continue to provide an online presence for our congregation; and several requests that were addressed as follows:
MOTION: To rename Study Leave line item to Study Leave/Retreat Time to allow Pastor Diane to be away for spiritual renewal, even if she is not able to travel. *APPROVED*
MOTION: To carry over two weeks of Study/Retreat Time from 2020 to 2021 due to pandemic circumstances. *APPROVED*
MOTION: To approve one week of Study Leave from Monday January 25, 2021 through Sunday January 31, 2021. *APPROVED*
- There was discussion of the need for a Technology Committee.