

COMMITTEE REPORTS TO LAKE HURON PRESBYTERY
June 2, 2020

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve the minutes of the March 7, 2020 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery.
2. Approve the following actions with regard to the review of Session minutes and Church Registers:
 - a. The minutes of the following churches be approved without exception: Fairgrove
 - b. The minutes of the following church be approved with exception: Grand Blanc Kirkridge
 - c. The church registers for the following churches be approved without exception: Fairgrove, Grand Blanc Kirkridge
 - d. The following churches still need to be reviewed: Bay City First, Breckenridge-Emerson, Caro-First, Deckerville-First, Elkton-Chandler, Fenton-First, Fenton-Tyrone, Flint-Unity, Harbor Beach-First, Ithaca-Lafayette, Kinde-First, Linden, Saginaw-Korean, Sandusky, Twining-Maple Ridge, Ubly-First and Yale-First

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL

The Presbytery Council presents the following items from the Policies, Bills, and Overtures Team:

1. For a first reading: Recommend the proposed Amendment to Presbytery Bylaw-2.1.d. A vote will be held either at the September meeting or a special meeting held for that purpose. If adopted, the proposed amendment would be effective at the close of that meeting. The amendment decreases the number of days in which notification of a stated meeting scheduled or location change would need to be made [ATTACHMENT A].
2. For a first reading: Recommend the proposed new Presbytery Bylaw B.2.1.g.A vote will be held either at the September meeting or a special meeting held for that purpose. If adopted, the proposed bylaw would be effective at the close of that meeting. The proposed bylaw would allow the Presbytery to hold meetings by electronic means. [ATTACHMENT A].

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3. For action: Approve adding the Policy for an Electronic Meeting of the Whole Presbytery to the current Presbytery Electronic Meeting Policy. [ATTACHMENT B]. This would allow use of collaborative techniques such as web-based Zoom, GoTo Meeting and Skype, conference calls, and interactive video teleconferences for Presbytery stated and special meetings.

The Presbytery Council presents the following items for information:

4. In response to the coronavirus health care crisis, Council met via Zoom to issue an advisory statement on March 13. Actions included:
 - Strongly encouraging all congregations to suspend public gatherings including worship through April 5.
 - Cancelling all Presbytery face-to-face activities through April 12th including the Hunger Summit at Trinity United Presbyterian Church on April 6th. Committees and other groups could choose to meet electronically using the Presbytery's zoom meeting service.
 - Keeping the Presbytery Office open on an essential staff only basis for the near future. Staff would remain available by phone, email, and text, but most staff were asked to work from home during this time.
5. On March 23, 2020, Council met to issue an update to the first advisory statement. Actions included:
 - Approved the Emergency Policy to Support Congregations Experiencing Financial Hardship Due to Pandemic.
 - Approved the Emergency Policy to Support Pastoral Leaders Experience Financial Hardship Due to Pandemic. This policy also includes CRE's.
 - Board of Trustees and Council approved postponing loan payments for churches with a presbytery-issued loan for up to six months beginning March 23, 2020.
 - Board of Trustees and Council authorized grants and zero-percent interest loans for congregations experiencing financial stress. The initial limit for the grants and loans is \$4,000 (\$2,000 grant + \$2,000 loan), but that limit could be revisited as the extent of the need becomes known. The loans will be repayable without interest for up to 20 months from the issuing of the loan.
 - Approved assisting congregations in obtaining and using electronic meeting services from Zoom meeting services, up to 50% of a group discounted rate through TechSoup with a deadline for application of April 1, 2020.

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- The Executive Presbyter reported that two weekly Zoom meetings were set-up. One for Presbytery leadership and larger churches and one for smaller church pastor or clerks of session (if there is no pastor).
 - Advised per CDC guidelines adopted March 15 that church sessions and congregational leadership be advised to suspend face-to-face meetings until May 10.
 - A link to resources for churches who live-stream their services is available on the Presbytery's website at www.presbylh.org.
 - In compliance with Governor Whitmer Office's shutdown order on March 23, 2020, the Presbytery Office was closed. Staff worked from home but were available by email until further notice to meet the needs of the Presbytery.
6. On April 27, 2020, Council met via Zoom to approve an update to the second advisory statement. The Council:
- Urged congregations to continue to observe the directives of state and local authorities regarding personal activity and public assemblies as an act of loving our neighbors by promoting public health and safety; to continue to suspend face-to-face gatherings through May 30, resuming in-person worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, with limited numbers of participants under carefully observed protocols should circumstances permit; and to use the month of May to prepare their congregations and gathering places for safe meetings, observing protocols provided by the presbytery and civil authorities for such meetings. Preliminary guidance including protocols can be found on the coronavirus response page of the Presbytery's website at www.presbylh.org.
 - Extended actions regarding telecommuting and suspending face-to-face meetings.
 - Increased limits on grants and loans from \$2,000 each to \$4,000 each since fewer requests were received than expected. The same repayment terms for loans will apply. Congregations that have already received grants and loans could reapply. An updated application form has been posted on the Presbytery website at www.presbylh.org.
 - Authorized the distribution of Benchmarks and Protocols for Reopening Churches During the COVID-19 Pandemic. Due the amount of material presented, an abridged version which includes sections "A Model for Returning To Church", "Phase One" and "Questions for Church Leadership to Consider" were posted as "Benchmarks and Protocol – Abridged version" on the coronavirus response page of the Presbytery's

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website at www.presbylh.org. An unabridged version which includes all phases has also been posted on the website.

- Authorized Lindsey Carnes, Council Moderator, to designate the June Presbytery meeting based on the recommendation of the Midland Chapel Lane session.
 - For the June Presbytery meeting offering, designated a gift of \$250 be given towards the designated offering recipient. Funds from account #000-110-51030 (Presbytery Meetings) will be used to cover costs. The gift is in addition to any offerings received through electronic fund giving.
7. On May 13, 2020, Council authorized the distribution of the Supplemental Guidelines Regarding Phased Reopening of Churches. A Framework for Resuming In-Person Gatherings and COVID-19 Prevention Strategies For Faith Communities were attached to the letter and can be found on the coronavirus response page of the Presbytery's website at www.presbylh.org.
 8. At the request of the Mission Coordination Committee, authorized the re-designation of funds of \$1,939.06 from account #000-000-21030 (Presbytery Disaster Refund Fund); \$1,616.00 from account #000-000-21521 (Mission Grants) and \$1,444.94 from account #000-000-21521 (Peace & Global Witness) to meet the community food insecurity in the following areas/amounts: Flint area relief - \$2,000; Isabella/Gratiot area relief - \$2,000 and general relief: \$1,000. Distribution would be coordinated with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan and the Food Bank of the Greater Lansing Area.

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

The Commission on Ministry reports that it took the following actions on behalf of presbytery:

1. Approved the request of Midland-Memorial to move the Rev. Matthew Schramm from Designated Pastor to Called and Installed Pastor.
2. Approved the full-time Interim Pastor contract renewal between the Rev. Philomena Ofori-Nipaah and Saginaw-Second, effective date to be determined. Terms are as follows:

Cash Salary	\$56,631.78
Housing Allowance	\$15,000
Pension, medical, disability, <u>dental</u> and death benefit coverage under the Board of Pensions	\$26,503.76

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SECA Offset	\$5,479.83
Moving Expense Reimbursement	Up to \$4,000
Travel Reimbursement	Up to \$,500 at IRS rate
Continuing Education	\$1,500
Professional Expenses	\$700
Vacation Time	4 weeks including 4 Sundays
Study Leave	2 weeks including 2 Sundays

TRUSTEES

The Trustees present the following items for information:

1. Authorized Council or its designee to issue grants and zero-percent interest loans to congregations as part of a grant/loan package using funds from designated use account #000-000-21485 (Restricted Gift for Church Loans) and then unrestricted reserves as needed. The initial limit for the grants and loans will be \$4,000 (\$2,000 grant + \$2,000 loan) but the limit can be revisited as the extent of the need becomes known. The loans will be repayable without interest for up to 20 months from the issuing of the loan.
2. Approved tolling (postponing) payments on existing loans to churches by the Presbytery for up to 6 months beginning March 23, 2020 with no interest assessed during the tolling period.
3. Increased the amount available for church grants and loans from \$2,000 to \$4,000 for both, with the same conditions, due to the extended stay-at-home directive and fewer requests than anticipated.

STATED CLERK

The Stated Clerk reports the following items for information:

3. The Stated Clerk received the following resignations: Rev. Dr. Joseph Novak from the Nominating Team; Rev. Linda Graham from the Commission on Ministry. The Nominating Team will be informed of these resignations.
4. Schedule of Presbytery Meetings:

September 15, 2020
December 1, 2020

Fairgrove
Flint-First

Saturday, March 6, 2021
June 1, 2021
September 14, 2021
December 7, 2021

Invitations being accepted
Invitations being accepted
Invitations being accepted
Invitations being accepted

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If you are interested in hosting one of those Presbytery meetings, please **e-mail** the Stated Clerk's office – tmcculloch@presbylh.org. All meetings start at 9:30 AM. Meeting host churches should be handicap accessible.

END OF COMMITTEE REPORTS