**January 16, 2018 Session Meeting Minutes (draft)**

**Valley Presbyterian Church**

**Brookfield, CT**

**382nd Stated Session Meeting**

**January 16, 2018**

**Meeting was called to order and opened with prayer at 6:10 PM by Rev. Crawford.**

**ELDERS PRESENT:** Rev. Adele Crawford, David Green, Cheryl Freeston, Lori Peck, Lynn Ecsedy, Colin Harrison, Sandy Zuvanich

**ABSENT and EXCUSED:** Bud Adams, Judy Cunningham

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jon Birdsall, Meg Gill, Mike Garcia, Peg Daley

**QUORUM:**  A quorum was present and announced by Cheryl.

**DOCKET and Consent Motion**

It was **moved, seconded and voted** to adopt the docket with additions (Colin’s and Jon’s work on Getting Unstuck, PA System and Meg’s work on a VPC communication strategic plan) and accept the reports submitted for this meeting (including **minutes from 12/12 Session meeting** and financial reports). The Consent Motion was approved and included:

* Use of the building by Nancy Munn on February 10 for a Girl Scout meeting and CPR class
* That Communion will be served on the first Sunday of the month with the exception of September when it will be served on September 9
* That Rev. Adele be away January 25 through 30 to preach at Gretchen Sausville’s ordination in Colorado
* That Rev. Adele be away to attend a conference on #metoo from February 10-14

**Joys and Concerns** were shared. Adele reported that Bud is recovering from pneumonia and has been at Danbury Hospital. Adele offered a prayer for Bud and for other joys and concerns raised.

**Election of Church Officers for 2018**

It was moved, seconded and voted to approve the following slate of officers for 2018:

Cheryl Freeston – Clerk of Session, Allison Gianazza – Financial Secretary, Jon Birdsall – Treasurer, Terri Flanagan – Assistant Treasurer

**Old Business**

Jon provided an update on the stewardship campaign. We were in a much better financial position at the end of 2017 than was originally anticipated ($1745 deficit rather than $15,000). This was largely due to some very generous special gifts made toward the end of the year. The 2018 stewardship campaign is about 1 week behind schedule. Jon shared drafts of 3 versions of letters to be sent to members of the congregation along with pledge cards and the narrative budget. The wording of the letters was discussed and it was agreed that some changes would be made. February 4 will be the due date for turning in pledges.

Colin and Jon discussed the PowerPoint they developed regarding Getting Unstuck. They shared their thoughts about Valley’s long term financial viability along with a number of possible scenarios and strategies that could bring us greater financial stability by 2020. As we develop the 2018 budget, we need to look closely and systematically at the potential effects of various additional expenses (ex. hiring a consultant, hiring a youth director, increased spending on communication and PR) and how these may impact the membership and budget (ex. increased pledging units).

Meg provided copies of the VPC Communication Strategic Plan for 2018 to the group. Meg welcomed additional input and ideas on this as we move forward.

**New Business**

**PA System:** Colin has looked at what we need. We need both better hand held mics and a new receiver. He will continue to look into purchasing these replacements.

**Paid Parental Leave Overture:** It was moved, seconded, voted and approved to concur with First Presbyterian Church, New Haven in supporting the Paid Parental Leave Overture.

**Mental Health Overture:** It was moved, seconded, voted and approved to send the Mental Health Overture based on the 10th anniversary of “Comfort My People: A Policy Statement on Serious Mental Illness” to the Presbytery of Southern New England to send to the General Assembly. Cheryl will communicate with Bill Thomas, Stated Clerk of PSNE, regarding the actions on these overtures.

**Hurricane Relief Project:** Colin reported that there are projects available through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for individuals 18 and older. He and Adele will send a letter to potential participants to determine interest and where we would like to focus Valley’s effort. It was agreed that Colin should move forward with this. This will likely take place during the summer. There will be opportunities for service in Florida, Louisiana and Texas.

**Examination of New Elders and Deacons**

Peg joined the meeting. In small groups, we discussed with Peg, Mike and Meg what brought them to Valley and what gifts they will bring to their leadership roles. Following these conversations, Session members unanimously voted to approve for ordination and installation Meg and Mike as Elders and Peg and Lynne Marlis as Deacons. They will be ordained and installed at the worship service on January 21.

Departing elder Dave Green was thanked for his service and Judy Cunningham was recognized for her service.

**Sending**

Cheryl reviewed elder of the month and Communion server assignments for February. Lori Peck will serve as a commissioner at the Presbytery meeting on February 10. Our **next Session meeting** will be on **February 20 at 6 PM**. Sandy will serve as Clerk Pro-Tem.

Adele will send out possible dates in February for a Saturday leadership retreat

**ADJOURNMENT:** It was **moved, seconded and voted to adjourn**. We adjourned with prayer by Rev. Crawford at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Freeston

Clerk of Session