

MOUNT PLEASANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
Stated Session Meeting Digest
May 25, 2021

CALL TO ORDER.

The meeting was held in the Fellowship Hall. Associate Pastor Bart Edwards moderated and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He declared that a quorum was present. Ruling Elder L. Bruorton read Ephesians 3:7-20 and offered the opening prayer

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda was approved by voice vote.

- A. Approval of minutes: May 4, 2021 adjourned stated session meeting
May 9, 2021 called meeting of the congregation
May 23, 2021 called session meeting
- B. Approval of excused absences:
- C. Admit/Approve routine changes to the membership rolls:
- D. To invite the Rev. Franklin Fant, President and CEO of Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina, to serve as guest preacher on June 27.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT ON THE SPRING STATED MEETING OF CHARLESTON ATLANTIC PRESBYTERY

Ruling Elders Cross, Deavor, Ostrom, and Molinari attended the meeting as commissioners along with Rev. Edwards.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. MISSION: East Cooper Community Outreach grocery bags continue to be collected. Beverley Hutchinson has been appointed to lead the Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center, and the contributions of Lily Westerhold and Maehler Purcell were acknowledged as they now head off to college.
- B. PERSONNEL: Staff Appreciation Day was held today. Joy Cobb has left employment to relocate due to family concerns. The interim pastor/head of staff search committee will meeting with Donnie Woods for orientation.
- C. WORSHIP: The Rev. Dr. Donnie Woods preached on May 23. Bibles and hymnals have been restored to the pews. Congregational singing will return this Sunday. For the present time, there will still be no passing of items such as Ritual of Friendship, offering baskets, and communion elements.

ACTION ITEM: The Worship Committee moved that the session adopt the following summer worship schedule from June 13-September 5:

9:00am- Outdoor/Net Service (with the possibility of going inside to the FH due to weather)

10:30- Sanctuary Worship In-Person with livestream.

The item was approved.

D. PROPERTY AND GROUNDS

ACTION ITEM: Property and Grounds moved that the Session approve the use of the Fellowship Hall by the Rotary Club for their Wednesday mid-day meeting. The item was approved.

- E. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: The Learning Center's last day is May 26. Summer programming is underway. Planning for the fall kick-off is underway. Adult Faith Formation changes will be shared in the June issue of the Pelican.

- F. FELLOWSHIP AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE: A church-wide picnic is being planned.

- G. FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP: Consecration Sunday is planned for October 24.
As April 30, 2011:

	Actual YTD	Budgeted YTD
Total Revenues	\$670,326.51	\$993,740.00
Total Expenses	\$801,443.92	\$999,561.53
Net Total	(\$131,117.41)	\$(5,821.53)

	Operating	Temporary Restricted	Endowment
Bank Balances	\$185,491	\$431,183	\$1,319,411

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

REOPENING: The Property & Grounds Committee moved the following items which were approved:

- A. To approve the following mask policy:

Effective May 28, fully vaccinated or naturally immune congregants, children three years of age and under, staff, and visitors to MPPC campus will no longer be required to wear a mask on campus. Of course, individuals in this category may continue to wear a mask if they wish, and their decision to do so will be respected by. Likewise, those who are fully vaccinated and who choose not to wear a mask will have their decision respected. To ensure consistency with CDC guidance, these policies will apply uniformly to all MPPC campus activities. A person is "fully vaccinated" two weeks after receiving the Johnson & Johnson single-dose vaccine or two weeks after the second dose of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines.

Although the decision to get vaccinated is a personal one, the CDC has advised that those who do not get vaccinated for whatever reason—medical, religious, or simply personal choice—pose a greater risk of catching and transmitting the virus to others. Therefore, consistent with CDC guidance, those who are not fully vaccinated must continue to wear a mask at all times while in campus buildings. The only exception is for employees who are alone in private offices.

By not wearing a mask while on the MPPC campus, a person will be deemed to be affirmatively representing that he or she is fully vaccinated. We trust members of the MPPC community to follow these simple rules. Additionally, if CDC or other public health guidance changes—for example, if there is a spike in COVID infections—we may re-institute the mask requirement.

Any additional changes regarding this policy be delegated to the Acting Pastor/Head of Staff based on their best judgement regarding the emergent situation

- B. To establish a task force composed of a member (not necessarily a ruling elder) from each Sessional Committee, the Diaconate, and the Church Staff to examine what we learned/are learning during the pandemic to address the following questions
- What do we miss from pre-pandemic? What do we want to keep that is new? What do we want to bring back?
 - How do we minister to, recognize, and engage our "virtual" congregation that is no longer confined to the four walls of the church or to the MPPC campus?
 - The church is NOT the church it was in March 2020. Have conversations with the Learning Center to hear what they learned.
- C. To adopt the following calendar for reopening:
- *June 1 - allow use of large classrooms, i.e. Fellowship Hall, GH 123, GH 221. Rooms should be well ventilated. Adult leadership are encouraged to be fully vaccinated.
 - *June 18 (CCSD student final day) open classrooms for summer ministry. Occupancy should follow CDC/DHEC guidelines and err on the conservative side.
 - *August 1 – VBS. VBS enrollment should not be limited and as much outside time scheduled as possible. Other alternatives are at the discretion of the Children's Ministry Team.

*August 16 (CCSD student's first day) Open campus with suggested CDC/DHEC guidelines implemented.

*August 28 Allow MPPC to host S.T.E.P.S. for Charleston Atlantic Presbytery

*September 12 Allow program staff to be creative with a festive campus-wide celebration keeping in mind CDC/DHEC guidelines.

NEW BUSINESS

A. SESSION COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: The session voted to approve the following slate:

Christian Education: Ellen Creed Branham ('22), Abigail Scruggs ('22), Jane Parker ('23)

Fellowship & Congregational Life: Wade Thompson ('22), Maryann Davis ('23), Amy Murrell ('24)

Finance & Stewardship: Bob Ostrom ('23), Mack Cross ('23), Jason Walton ('24)

Missions: Elizabeth Amory ('22), Kim Richardson ('22), Theresa Reed ('24), Terry Steyer ('24)

Personnel: Lindsay Brounton ('22), Tom Dozier ('23), James Scott ('23)

Property & Grounds: Scott Douty ('22), McRae Wallace ('22), Al Jenkins ('22), Eliza Dunn ('23)

Worship: Anne Farmer ('24), Anna Shugart ('24), Mac Thigpen ('24)

Congregational Nominating Committee: Ellen Creed Braham ('22), Mac Thigpen ('24)

B. ELECTION OF A CHURCH TREASURER: In accordance with G-3.0205 of the Book of Order, Shannon Carter was re-elected treasurer until a replacement can be found.

C. ELECTION OF A CLERK In accordance with G-3.0104 of the Book of Order ruling elder J. Deavor was re-elected clerk.

D. ELECTION OF A COMMISSION TO EXAMINE OFFICERS-ELECT J. Molinari moved to establish, in accordance with G-3.0109b(6) of the Book or Order, a commission to examine and, if the way be clear, to approve the ordination and/or installation of any officers-elect who have not yet been examined. The motion was seconded and passed. Elders M. Davis and E. Creed Branham were elected to serve on the commission. Rev. B. Edwards will moderate and the clerk shall serve *ex-officio*.