

**Presbyterian Church of Lake Travis**  
**Session Meeting Minutes**  
**May 3, 2020**  
**12:30 PM CST**  
**By Way of ZOOM**

**Session Members in Attendance:** Rev Jack Barden, Moderator; Mary Margaret MacMillan, Nancy Vanzandt; Dave Rungay, Nancy Boenitz and Steve Gottlieb.

**Jack opened the meeting with prayer**

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for both the 3/22 and 3/31 session meetings were accepted as submitted.

**Moderators Report**

Jack announced that Austin Bradley was hired as our Music Director. Austin will begin in his new role this coming Sunday—via Zoom. Austin is preparing a video introduction of himself and that will be available sometime this week. Jack also announced that this would be Kimbol's last time with us for this semester, but will be back in the fall.

After a brief set of comments from Jack, re the More-Light Church, **Steve moved that PCLT join More-Light. This was seconded by Mary Margaret. Approved unanimously.**

As this recommendation had originally come from the Outreach Committee, Mary Margaret agreed to write a brief piece for this week's newsletter.

**Committee Reports**

- Finance: --- See attached report
- Worship: --- After some discussion about how to improve our Zoom services, it was decided that when possible and now that we have a video camera suitable for streaming, that Jack and a few others would try to conduct services from our church home—still streaming. This does NOT mean that there will be people in attendance. Rather, at most there would be a half dozen people all of whom would have a role in the service which will still be via Zoom.
- Hospitality: --- Several members are continuing to make phone calls to check in on others in the church.
- Outreach: -- We are going to try to put up and additional sign inviting people to join us in our Zoom services on Sunday.
- Property: -- It was acknowledged that Larry Neuman was doing a considerable amount of work on the property to clean it up and improve its looks. Still looking to paint the cross in the tower.
- Mission: -- Steve and Jack gave a rundown on the changes to our MLF ministry, which were precipitated by Scott' needing to take time off from all the various church activities in which he had been engaged.
- Christian Ed: -- See attached report

**Old Business**

- Visioning Meeting has been postponed
- As it is unclear whether there will be a presbytery meeting in October, selecting commissioners was postponed
- Safety plan is also on hold
- Columbarium is also on hold

## New Business

- Do we re-open soon? There was a brief discussion which included citing sections from Mission Presbytery's "**Coming Back Together as a Congregation Guidelines**". The key phrase from the guidelines (appearing in all three phases) that influenced our decision was; "Continue to strongly discourage vulnerable individuals from attending". As most all of our congregation falls in this category, the decision was easy.

**Steve made this motion seconded by Nancy V: That PCLT is to remain closed, virtual services to continue and this decision to be revisited at our next meeting.**

- Jack explained that given the pandemic, there are many more people asking for financial assistance and they are asking for larger sums. Jack also told us that there are a number of individuals who are asking to donate some or even all of their stimulus money to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. As such, Jack requested that the session allow him to use his discretion up to a \$1000 limit per request. Further that there would be no direct impact on the 2020 budget.

**Steve made and Mary Margaret seconded this motion: That the Pastor at his sole discretion, could offer financial assistance to individuals who asked for and he believed needed, such assistance. That there was to be a \$1000 limit on each request, but if circumstances necessitated it, could be repeated.**

Kimbol Soques closed up with prayer

**Next meeting May 24, 2020 at 12:30PM CDT**

  
Steve Gottlieb, Clerk of Session  
Rev Jack Barden, Moderator