

**STATED SESSION MEETING  
OLD STONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2021**

The Session of the Old Stone Presbyterian Church met for their regular Stated meeting on Wednesday, December 1, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by the moderator, the Rev. Jeff Binder. (This was a hybrid meeting – in person and via Zoom.)

**DECLARATION OF QUORUM** – The Clerk had taken attendance and it was declared that a quorum was in attendance.

**PRESENT:** Moderator, Rev. Jeff Binder, Interim Pastor; Clerk of Session, Nancy Smallenberger; Educator/Program Coordinator, Amy Kesterson; and Ruling Elders: Doug Bicksler, Stuart Brown, Jim Coleman, Susan Graham, Megan Kirkham, Chuck Lewis, Townley Hamilton, Amy Meadows and Tracy Morgan.

**EXCUSED:** Ruling Elders: Scott McClelland and Tag Galyean.

**ABSENT:** Ruling Elder, Karen Leland.

Devotions and opening prayer were given by Clerk, Nancy Smallenberger.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Minutes of the Stated Session meeting held on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, were **APPROVED** as presented.

**COVID-19 UPDATE** – The Reopening Task Force had met and their report was included in the packet. The Session formally approved and created the Task Force moving forward. Individuals in attendance at the organizational meeting were: Bill Cunningham, Polley Cunningham, Nancy Greenstreet, Craig Boisvert, Amy Kesterson, Molly McMillion, Andy Kelso, Amy Meadows and Rev. Jeff Binder. Jennifer Runyon will also be a member of the group. It was suggested that it would be helpful if there was a representative from the Men’s Breakfast group and an active Ruling Elder (beginning in January 2022) join the group. The Session agreed to move forward following the group’s current recommendations – continuing to encourage mask wearing; trying to social distance when possible; no food/meals being served; the use of individual, disposable communion elements and leaving the plexiglass in place on the pulpit.

**COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE:** Rev. Binder stated that he does not feel that the Session, as a whole, serving as functioning committees is ideal. Moving into the new year he hopes to have individual committees functioning in place of the Session handling committee work.

**MISSION STUDY** – Susan Graham and Rev. Binder have met and discussed the materials that have been compiled. The “real work” will begin the first of the year.

**CARE** – Questions pertaining to the Care Committee that arose during discussion included:

1. Is there a formal procedure in place that is followed when a death in the church family occurs?

2. Are the Elders continuing to contact individuals on their Care Lists?
3. What are the duties of the Care Committee?

OUTREACH --- Rev. Binder stated that the church has received numerous requests from the individual groups that Old Stone has given financial support to in the past. It was decided by the Session that no action be taken on these requests until the 2022 church budget is compiled.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Doug Bicksler, moderator, reported that the committee had completed their work, completing a slate of officers (Elders, Class of 2024; Trustees, Class of 2024 and Nominating Committee for 2022). A Congregational Meeting will be held, immediately following the morning worship service, on Sunday, December 19, to elect these individuals. A Service of Installation and Ordination will be held on Sunday, January 16, 2022, when the newly elected Ruling Elders will be ordained and installed.

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE – Jim Coleman:

1. The Stewardship letter and pledge cards have been sent to members of the church.
2. Dedication Sunday will be Sunday, December 5.
3. Extra pledge cards will be available in the vestibule of the sanctuary on Sundays.
4. The offering is now being counted and deposited every week following morning worship.
5. The church has received \$5000 from the Mary Nickell Fund and the monies have been transferred to the construction account.
6. Committee moderators were reminded that their budget requests for 2022 need to be submitted --due by December 15.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – A written report was included in the packet. The item concerning a PYC luncheon was removed, per Task Force recommendations.

WORSHIP – Townley Hamilton:

1. Minutes of the last committee meeting were included in the packet.
2. It was reported that the Rev. Malcomb Brownlee will be preaching on Sunday, December 26 in the absence of Rev. Binder. In the event that Rev. Brownlee can not be here, Becky Williams will preach.

PERSONNEL – Tracy Morgan:

1. Brennan Wood has accepted the position of Director of Music and will also be directing the Bell Choir, with an annual salary of \$12,125.
2. Megan Kirkham will be serving as a paid Nursery Attendant, at \$30 per Sunday.

PASTOR'S REPORT – Rev. Binder:

1. Reminder that Stewardship Dedication Sunday will be this Sunday, December 4.
2. Question of changing the date and time of Session meetings. This will be discussed at a future meeting.
3. The Presbytery is encouraging churches to have the discussion concerning churches becoming incorporated.

PASTORAL CONCERNS:

1. Chuck Plumley's sister, Alice Jeffries, has passed away. There will be a family service in the spring.
2. Continued prayers for Bridgett and Matt Edwards.
3. Continued prayers for Chuck and LouElla Lewis.
4. Prayers for Amy Kesterson and her family as her mother-in-law is facing another cancer diagnosis.
5. There was a discussion on individuals who can't drive and who may wish to attend services.
6. When to hold the Annual Meeting and compiling the Annual Report.
7. Reminded Elders in the Class of 2021 that they should attend the January 5, 2022, Stated meeting as the new class will not have been ordained and installed until January 16, 2022.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE – reported by the Clerk: Since Sunday, October 24, attendance on Sunday mornings had been 95, 85, 71, 79, 81 and 80.

NEW BUSINESS –

1. Highlights of the last Presbytery meeting had been included in the packet.
2. Amy Meadows stated that she had manned the Committee Sign-up table during the Advent Fair and that she would be willing to have the sign-up sheets available following morning worship on Sunday, December 12.

The meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer by the Rev. Binder.

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Clerk of Session

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Moderator

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Date Signed and Approved