

Fairmount Presbyterian Church  
2757 Fairmount Boulevard  
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118  
Session Meeting, Regular  
Minutes  
March 9, 2022, 6:30 pm  
Virtual

The March 9, 2022, Regular Session Meeting of Fairmount Presbyterian Church is presented by the moderator, Rev. Ryan Wallace, Senior Pastor, at 6:30 pm, via Zoom.

THE ROLL

Elders Present: Rev. Lindsay Harren-Lewis, Associate Pastor; David Bosler, Chin-Tai Kim, Keith Mills, Sarah Planchon Pope, Peg Zitzner, Megan Bennett, Todd Imbler, Jeri Gype, Gordon Landefeld

Elders Excused/Not Attending: Rob Faxon, Grant Gannon

Clerk of Session: Gordon Landefeld

Moderator: Rev. Ryan Wallace, Senior Pastor

Guests: Elders Jean Sylak and Walter Ginn; Matt Hrubey, Interim Financial Administrator; Molly Brown, Treasurer

QUORUM

The Moderator determined a quorum was present. 6:33 pm

The Moderator reviewed the docket, and hearing no objections, started the meeting.

The Moderator introduced the guests, and permitted them "privilege of voice."

OPENING PRAYER

Elder Peter Bush, Faith Statement

Note: Elder Rob Faxon to present a Faith Statement as opening prayer on April 6, 2022

AGENDA

1. **Motion** :Retroactively approve increase of \$767.34 to Rev Jessie MacMillan's pay to correct an error that arose from an adjustment to Pastor Jessie's continuing education allowance.
  - a. **Unanimous Approval**
2. Treasurer's Report - Welcome Molly Brown
  - a. Financial Statements
    - i. Due to PPE loan, overage
    - ii. Rob Leffler is financial advisor for finance cmte
3. Presentation of Fairmount's recent activity in support of refugees with Jean Sylak and Walter Ginn - Appendix A - Walter Ginn presented report.
  - a. Jean added:
    - i. Update for Session Meeting on March 9. 2022:
    - ii. On 2/18/2022 current refugee was given an "Extended Stay Covenant at Fairmount Presbyterian Church's Apartment. He thanked both Rev. Jessie and Anne Hill. He can now feel comfortable knowing our church family wants him to meet his goal to become a citizen of USA. He has been receiving a \$100 stipend monthly from AMIS funds that will end in June. It was a restricted fund that

ended. Refugee is serving a real need for our church, by opening and closing doors when needed at Fairmount. AMIS has used him to interpret between patient and doctor/s as needed. He continues to improve his skills with English classes. Refugee is looking forward to warmer weather so he can get back to work with our members and their friends.

- iii. AMIS is a nonprofit, Americans Making Immigrants Safe
  - 1. Total balance of funds held by AMIS: \$84,203.12
  - 2. Of this amount, 41% or \$34,345.39 set aside restricted funds to support specific immigrants & their families, including a special fund for Refugee.
- iv. And 59% or \$49,857.73 is in the AMIS General Fund and is available to support the needs of other immigrants and their families (those for whom a specific fund has yet to be created).
- v. HFOI: Heights Friends Of Immigrants
  - 1. A group that works along with AMIS, HFOI are “doers” in meeting the needs of immigrants. They were instrumental in finding that Beth El Synagogue in Cleveland Heights that had space to store the basic needs for setting up a household.
- b. A high school student that received a scholarship to attend Beaumont. She lives with her Uncle and his family in South Euclid. Transportation was needed to get to & from school. A group of women volunteered to pick her up at home & return her in the afternoon.
- c. These are local organizations working to meet the needs of our refugee/immigrants in the Cleveland communities.
- d. Walter suggests:
  - i. Communicate more with congregation
  - ii. Determine length of commitment
- e. Pastor Lindsay thanks Walter
  - i. Note about Current Refugee
    - 1. Renewed Covenant - Lindsay still working on it
    - 2. Working with us and we for him
  - ii. Heard that governor is having conversation about Ukraine
    - 1. We may hear more from Walter?
  - iii. Walter agreed
- f. Rev Ryan asked permission to share the report with Presbytery,
  - i. Walter agreed
- 4. Realm review with Christine Winters
  - a. Have you been on Realm? There are so many tools
  - b. On YouTube Christine describes updating your Realm Profile
    - i. <https://youtu.be/KxtsVdYWiQg>
  - c. Christine will seek to answer your questions.
- 5. Clerk's Report
  - a. Consent Agenda
  - b. **Motion:** Approve Consent Agenda
    - i. **Approval Unanimous**
    - ii. Minutes
      - 1. January 29, 2022 Session Retreat - Appendix B
    - iii. Receive the following report of all weddings, funerals, baptisms, and communion that have taken place at the church since session's previous meeting:
    - iv. Communion: Since the January 29, 2022 Session Retreat

1. Communion was served at 8:30am in the chapel on January 30th; February 13th, 20th, 27th & March 6th.
2. Communion was served on February 6th and March 6th in the sanctuary.
- v. Weddings - none
- vi. Funerals
  1. A Memorial for Margaret Callander was held at Fairmount in the sanctuary on March 3, 2022 at 10:30am
  2. A Memorial for Alice Webb was held at Fairmount in the chapel on March 7, 2021 at 11:00am.
- vii. Membership statistical report through March 9, 2022
 

Total Membership as of January 29, 2021	574
• New Members	0
• Moved from Active Membership to "Friends of Fairmount"	0
• Removal from Rolls	0
• Removed by Letter of Transfer	0
• Deaths	0
Total Membership as of March 9, 2022	574
- viii. In Person Worship Attendance (830am + 1100am)
 

Sunday, January 30th: 10 + 69 = 79

Sunday, February 6th (11:00am only): 124

Sunday, February 13th: 12 + 63 = 75

Sunday, February 20th: 13 + 90 = 103

Sunday, February 27th: 20 + 115 = 135

Ash Wednesday, March 2nd: 27 + 46 = 73

Sunday, March 6th: 18 + 108 = 126

6. Pastor Jessie MacMillan, as one of her final duties, announced Feb 23, 2022:
  - a. Recently the family of Rev. Kitty Borchert donated \$5000 to be used "where most needed" and directed the donation for my attention/designation. After consulting with Lindsay and Gordon, I suggest the following:
  - b. \$2500 for anti-racism efforts under direction of the Serve Council.
    - i. Gordon suggested: "The Dr Rev Kitty Borchert Racism Truth and Reconciliation Fund"
  - c. \$2500 to AMIS for support of Jonas. Contact- Anne Hill and Jean Sylak. This also comes under the Serve Council.
  - d. Molly Brown and Matt Hrubey will determine how the monies are set up.
7. Online Motion Approved
  - a. February 25, 2022, Edwins Fish Fry March 11, 2022
    - i. **Motion:** Approve Fairmount hosting a Pick-Up Fish Fry on Friday March 11 from 5 to 8 pm in Anderson Hall, with Edwin's.
    - ii. **Approved** (9 approved via email, 3 did not respond).
    - iii. Information:
      1. Event to be publicized & open to the community. Masks required.
      2. Edwin's to cook the food in Fairmount's kitchen, and accept payment, and FPC staff will hand out meals.
      3. Pastor Lindsay and Rev Ryan will greet members of the church and/or community. Vicki will also be on hand to help.

4. Tables staffed by FPC volunteers will share info about:
      - a. Fairmount worship, with Lent bags (if we have some left)
      - b. Fairmount Councils: Who they are and all they've been up to (eg Serve's partnership with Edwins, money to LMM, etc.)
    5. FPC volunteers will guide traffic in the parking lot / at the ramp and into / out of Anderson Hall.
  - iv. Discussion:
    1. Is there financial information about the event?
    2. Reply:
      - a. Edwins provides all the food, and takes all the proceeds.
      - b. Our cost are the utilities to cook the food and keep the lights on.
      - c. So impact on our budget is negligible, and our impact on the community is more than not doing it.
      - d. Plus we introduce staff and programming to those participating.
  - v. Presbytery Meetings
    1. Gordon & Keith at each; additional currently assigned:
      - a. March 28, 2021: David Bosler & Sara Planchon Pope
      - b. May 22, 2021: Peg Zitzner & Chin-Tai Kim
      - c. July 25, 2021: Megan Bennet & Grant Gannon
      - d. September 26, 2021: Todd Imbler & Peter Bush
      - e. November 28, 2021: Rob Faxon & Jeri Gype
    2. You may attend as many Presbytery meetings as you wish.
8. Pastor's Report
  - a. Pastor Lindsay
    - i. Sign up for watercolor event with Miss Chris and Steph Washlock
    - ii. Two funerals, both powerful, both caskets
  - b. Pastor Ryan
    - i. What I'm working on
      1. Preaching and Worship
      2. Getting to know us
      3. Community and neighborhood engagement
      4. Small groups/member engagement
      5. Staff team building
      6. Maintaining stability
    - ii. Asked Sharon Core at PresWesRes Sr. Pastor hours
      1. 40 hrs a week
      2. Probably impossible
      3. Setting 45 hrs as a baseline
      4. 15 3 hr blocks
        - a. Thursday day off (LHL Friday)
      5. 9 hr days
      6. Saturdays one or two blocks
      7. Sundays 7:30 to early afternoon;
        - a. Agenda out sooner!
      8. Personnel approved once a month back to back days off for both pastors
  - c. Link for Relational Meeting: <https://calendly.com/ryan-fairmount/relational-meeting>
  - d. Plan from Session Retreat on focus items for the first six months.
    - i. Walk through each one
9. Council Reports

- a. Admin
    - i. Maintenance work done...
      - 1. Scaffolding in sanctuary eventually
      - 2. Network reset
      - 3. New website reviewed
        - a. More emphasis on Matthew 25 and More Light
      - 4. Alice Training
      - 5. Snow fills the ramp from roof
        - a. 3 hrs spent, so close ramp, piled snow in front
    - ii. Usher recruitment pep rally, schedule Alice and Defibrillator
    - iii. Pastor Lindsay - Alice training by PDA
  - b. Care
    - i. Feb 13 start of coffee hour
      - 1. Everyone bypassing it
      - 2. Agreed to coffee is self serve
      - 3. No need to have a deacon host - Vicky does it all
      - 4. Time to have Deacons resume taking flowers to housebound etc
        - a. Danielle and Jan Spalding - coordinating
        - b. Won't hand flowers, but leave at doorstep
      - 5. Big discussion for deacons to go as a group to see Anne Lamott talk March 16th at the Playhouse
        - a. We read her book last year, and fun is a good thing
      - 6. Continue a ministry of note writing
  - c. Faith
    - i. Sarah - sleepover a big success
      - 1. Semler coming up on March 30
      - 2. Looking for replacement for Chris Fader
      - 3. Kate doing confirmation
    - ii. Peter
      - 1. Preschool coop task force - gathering information
        - a. Pastor Ryan - who orgs that?
      - 2. Raleigh and Susan Kent involved
    - iii. Rev Ryan
      - 1. Amanda Wallace toured co-op
      - 2. Silas Wallace will attend co-op rest of the semester
  - d. Serve
    - i. Semler concert
    - ii. Dave: one thing we're trying to do with serve is weave a thread through the community. Synergistic.
10. Final Business
- a. **Motion:** Revise FPC masking policy (either i or ii):
    - i. While pandemic infections/deaths numbers in Cuyahoga County are not zero, they are the lowest they've been in more than seven months. Based on these numbers and the counsel of health professionals in the congregation, Fairmount lifts the mask mandate for all vaccinated persons, and removes the social distancing measure of alternate pews blocked. We ask if someone remains seated and does not rise to greet you, please take this as a sign they do not wish close personal contact. We ask that all unvaccinated or immunocompromised persons wear masks, and that anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID stay

outside the building. We also remove all size limits on groups of people, for both regularly scheduled events and weddings, funerals and special performances. We will review this policy as the pandemic landscape evolves.

- ii. Communion - pop top, or baskets of bread served with tongs, and take a personal cup
- iii. Conversation
  - 1. First Elder expert: prevalence is very low; single digits in positivity; more likely to be other viruses; part of what I looked up is the current CDC recommendation: Cuyahoga Cty prevalence does not rec masks in doors; also cultural considerations: what we feel is appropriate; culture lags reality; be respectful; creating space for personal decisions.
  - 2. Second Elder expert: First Elder expert covered it well; Pastors - what is your comfort level with unmasked.
    - a. Assistant Pastor - I will continue to wear a mask when meeting a ton o people, but not while leading worship; not sure what I'll do during week
    - b. Sr Pastor - I haven't thought about it, but may go with Assist Pstr
    - c. Elder college professor: my university requires all wear masks.
    - d. Assistant Pastor: Clev Hts Univ Hts & Shaker schools dropping masks.
    - e. Sr. Pastor - Immunocompromised Deacon says their family are prioritizing church and school and will continue to wear masks and come to church.
    - f. Elder - make Anderson Hall more inviting with some tables
    - g. Elder - if we expect people to act responsibly they'll act responsibly; esp in a church environment;
    - h. Elder: Playhouse Square dropped mask mandate

**iv. Unanimous Approval**

- b. Poll: What's your comfort level re: in-person Session meetings
- c. **Motion:** Will arrange for quarterly
  - i. **Motion Unanimous**
- d. **FYI:** The Semler concert will require concertgoers to provide proof of vaccination (including booster) and wear masks at the show. However, social distancing will not be enforced. Attendees, of course, may choose to hang back and distance on their own. This is in keeping with other area concert venue policies.
- e. **Omnibus Motion - Communion; Approval Unanimous**
  - i. Approve Rev. Lindsay officiate communion on Thursday March 10 during Confirmation Class.
    - 1. The topic on Thursday evening will be the Lord's Supper, and as a part of that lesson, we would like to be able to share in communion together.
  - ii. Approve Rev. Lindsay officiate communion on Sunday, April 24th during worship at the confirmation retreat.
    - 1. The service includes communion as our kiddos are learning about the sacraments.
    - 2. This retreat will likely be held at Bellwether Farm, a retreat center run by the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio.
  - iii. Approve Rev Ryan officiate communion at Session meetings:
    - 1. Apr 6, May 4, Jun 1, Jul 6, Aug 3, Sep 7, Oct 5, Nov 2, Dec 7.

2. Rev Ryan chance for congregation to feel we're being transparent
  3. Megan: I don't like it
  4. Keith: Here we are - see the bulletin -
- f. **Motion** :Initiate a monthly verbal report during worship (60 sec) recapping major decisions and conversations at the previous Session meeting.
- i. Table this
- g. Any remaining business?
- i. Prayers for Megan's parents
  - ii. Keith - Will share Green Initiative

#### Events of Note

- March 11 - Edwins' Fish Fry
- March 12 - Brimming with Creativity: Meditative Watercolors with Kate McFadden
- March 15, 22, 29 6:00 - 6:45 pm - Lenten Spiritual Practice Tuesdays with Revs Ryan and Lindsay
- March 22 - Lenten Spiritual Practice - Tuesday with Revs Ryan and Lindsay
- March 28 - Presbytery on Zoom, all welcome
- March 30 - 7:00 - 8:30 pm - Grace Semler Baldrige Christina LGBTQ Concert / Q&A
- April 5 - 6:00 - 6:45 pm - Lenten Spiritual Practice Tuesdays with Revs Ryan and Lindsay
- April 6 - 6:30 - 8:30 pm - Session Meeting, Stated
- April 15 - 17 - Holy Week & Easter
- April 18 - FPC closed in observance of Easter Monday

#### Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Rev Ryan at 9:10 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Gordon Landefeld, Clerk of Session