

## Mission Outreach Team Minutes

7:00 pm Dec. 5, 2017

### MOT Mission Statement:

*“Because God’s love knows no bounds, the Mission Outreach Team encourages the congregation of WCPC to be a servant people, witnessing to the light of Christ through actions and words so that the world might know the grace, peace and love of God.”*

**Attending:** Gary and Mary Jo Chapman, Kathy Bray, Warren Evans, Laura Grice, Bill and Ingrid Fowler, Louise Crider, Randell Todd, Erin Baker, Gordy Lentz, Sally Shu, Michele Stelter, and Mike Queen.

**Devotional:** Sally provided the devotional and opened the meeting with prayer.

**Elder Report:** - Joint meeting Elders and Deacons. Church is running a deficit.

### **Minutes Approval from Last Meeting:**

- November 7, 2016 – minutes approved.

### **Project Reports:**

- Peru: - Gary Chapman reported
  - Good sales at Alternate Market on Sunday.
  - Received a letter from Siciuani
    - 30 students this semester.
    - Photos of WCPC donations for kitchen & library.
  - Email from Sicuani
    - Graduation is 12/17. We’ve been invited.
    - All four graduates are WCPC scholarship recipients.
  - Presbytery of New Covenant is having a leadership meeting 12/7. Will review 2017 Mission Trips and 2018 plans. Churches are LPC, FPCB, WCPC and WPC.
- Family Promise –  
Warren will be contacting Building and Grounds about adding a shower to CHEB. We are also considering sponsoring a Family Promise week over Thanksgiving week 2018.
- Social Justice – Has no advocate.
- Faiths Together – Was full at Trinity Episcopal.
- Alternate Market – Was very successful. Sold over \$11,000.

- Africa – Elijah Mwandaili a Justo Mwale graduate attending Austin Seminary will visit our church 12,16 to 12/22. Elijah is a masters student sponsored by New Covenant Presbytery.
- Habitat for Humanity –
  - Work day Saturday was putting up siding.
  - Next work day is Dec 16.
  - Need about \$14,000 to complete payment for house. Will be next year.
  - Rick Uber is coordinating Saturdays for Habitat Rehab repairing dry wall in flooded houses.
- Angel Tree – All ornaments were picked up.
- Love Your Neighbor Day – Its Jan 27. Some projects need advocates.
- ESL – Restarts Jan 9. There will be student testing next week.
- **Blood Drive** – Dates for 2018 – Feb 18 Oct 21.

**Mission Facilitator's Report** – Michele Stelter reported:

- Reviewed MOT financial statements
- Shared thank you letters.

**New Business:** -

- Finance committee has requested our budget request for 2018. It was moved and passed to request for Benevolence 10% of the Church's 2018 revenue.

**Associates Pastor's Report** –

- None

**Devotion for Next Meeting**

- Mary Jo Chapman

Gordy closed meeting with prayer.

**Next meeting – Jan 2, 2018 in Room 301B**

# Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

November 30, 2017

Members Present: Virginia Breaux, Louise Crider, John Hathaway, Mike Queen, Paul Garner, Bubba Davis, and Mathew Jensen.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM with prayer. There were no previous minutes that needed approval. We discussed the status of the Stewardship campaign, and at the present time the current progress is similar to last year's campaign at the same time. On November 29, 2016, we had received pledges from 125 members for \$700,094, and as of November 30, 2017, we have received pledges from 129 members for \$734,630. In addition, we have \$30,198 in online giving which brings the total to \$764,828. The unfulfilled pledge percentage has been at 7% for the last five years, and needs to be a consideration in the 2018 budget planning.

We discussed WCPC's financial position as of the end of November, and it was determined that the deficit has increased to \$81,000. This deficit will be offset by a donation of \$14,000 from ELP, and by using approximately \$15,000 from the Building and Grounds Reserve Fund. We also, have available \$50,000 from the Texas Presbyterian Foundation Fund, but Finance is not in favor of using this since it is considered a one-time fix. We will need to make restraints to the 2018 budget to prevent a deficit because we will not have any reserves available at the beginning of 2018. At the end of 2017, all reserve account will be reviewed to insure that they have either a zero or positive balance. At the end of November, WCPC has approximately \$100,000 cash in the bank, which is used for both operating and designated (reserve) accounts. Finance will need to insure that WCPC is in compliance with any debt covenants for our bank loan. The committee made a decision to recommend that David Jones reach out to the members through a letter and/or email to help by keeping up with their pledge commitments. Also, an announcement from the pulpit to encourage members to fulfil their pledges.

The Budget Excel Worksheets for the 2018 budget planning will be sent to the Committees in early December to allow them time to plan and complete their budgets by early January.

We discussed a question from Todd Duncan and the Personnel Committee about how to figure the FICA/SSI taxes for 2018. It was stated that the FICA/SSI and Medicare taxes are based on a percentage of 7.65% of the employee's income (6.2% for SSI and 1.45% for Medicare).

The next scheduled Finance Committees meeting is set for January 11, 2018.

**The Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church**  
**Youth Team Meeting**  
**Minutes for November 30, 2017**

Meeting was called to order at 11:40am

In Attendance: Megan Hansen, Danelle Liddell, Sally Bowers, Marnie Bush, Shirley Barclay, Nancy Hathaway

- Prayer by Danelle
- New Business
  - Upcoming dates:
    - December 10, 6pm shop for Angel Tree families and dinner
    - December 20, 6-7:30pm Youth Christmas Party
    - December 30, 6pm Coffee House
    - January 4-5th Trip to Seafarers Center at Port of Houston to bring gift boxes and overnight lock in at WCPC, time TBD
    - Jan 20-21 Confirmation Class retreat (7-8th graders only)
    - Feb 4 Souper Bowl of Caring
    - Feb 17 Youth Group help with Fun and Games at Parents Night out
    - Feb 24 Game Night Fundraiser (fundraiser for Camps/Conferences)
    - Mar 2-4 Conclaves at Cho-yeh
    - Mar 18 Kayaking
    - April 13 Help with Garage sale along with Tweens (pizza for dinner and yogurt/ice cream after)
    - April 14 Garage Sale (fundraiser for Camps/Conferences)
    - May 4 Tweens/Youth get together event - fun and games at WCPC (Harry Potter?)
    - June 3 Graduation Sunday
    - June 10-15 Senior High Heifer Trip (tentative dates)
    - June 24-29 Senior High Celebration at Mo Ranch
    - July 8-12 Jr. High Jubilee at Mo Ranch
  - Heifer Mission trip - Shirley will call to reserve our date/inquire of minimum number of participants. We anticipate about 10 Youth will go with 3 Adults
  - Background Checks/Child protection training - Shirley will email the group the online training and will also help us to keep track of who is due for these
  - Danelle will reach out to parents to ask for help with driving, food, chaperone for events and conferences - Shirley will get a list of parents who have completed child protection training/background checks
  - Coffee House:
    - Donation bucket - half money goes to Heifer, half to raise money for Heifer trip this summer
    - Maybe have a photo booth - musician theme
    - Desserts - need about 200 pieces; maybe cookie ministry can help; Marnie will put together sign up genius to send to parents
    - Invite other groups to participate with food or acts; 20 acts total at about 4-5 minutes each
    - Faith in action December 10<sup>th</sup>; 2 minutes or less
  - Meeting adjourned at 1:30pm

**Next meeting of the Youth Team on January 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 in the Youth Room**

# Buildings and Grounds Report

## December 2017

No B&G Team meeting was held in December.

Safety and Emergency Steering Committee has 4 team members: Jeanne Bonnette, Sally Shu, Mathew Jensen, Jerry Dowling. More members may be solicited. All the team members, David Jones, Shirley Barclay, Sheree Fleming and Bruce Lee attended a presentation made by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office the week of December 11. This presentation was specifically made for faith groups in Montgomery County and was mainly about dealing with active shooters.

Painting the exterior of the Youth and Children Education Building, Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary is still scheduled to begin December 26.

New signage for the campus is beginning to be installed and most installation should be completed by December 24.

## **Christian Enrichment Ministry Team (Adults)**

### **Report**

**December, 2017**

#### **Sunday School Offerings**

Sunday School classes will resume their activities on January 7, 2018.

#### **Weekday Study Offerings**

*Monday Morning Women's Bible Study* led by Tricia Knight.

The group completed their field testing of an upcoming Horizons (PCUSA Women's Circle) Bible study that focuses on the Ten Commandments.

The group is planning to use Barbara Essex's *More Bad Girls of the Bible* as their study material this upcoming Spring semester. Tricia has done a comparison and found that Essex's book does not overlap with the related Liz Higgs studies. Moreover, Tricia consulted with Laura, who is familiar with the United Protestant Campus Ministries of Cleveland and confirmed that Essex's work 'fits' into a reformed tradition.

(See attached abstract)

Action item: A motion for Session to approve the study material.

Respectfully submitted,

Ria Du Bruyn

BARBARA J. ESSEX



More  
Bad Girls  
of the Bible

**Abstract**

Barbara Essex has returned with a command performance, *More Bad Girls of the Bible*, focusing on fourteen new stories of biblical women from the Hebrew Bible and New Testament: Hagar; Shiphrah and Puah; Miriam; Zipporah; Bathsheba; Rizpah; Huldah; a crippled woman; the Syrophenician woman; Martha and Mary; Samaritan woman at the well; and Mary Magdalene. Inspired by the success of the bestselling Bible study *Bad Girls of the Bible: Exploring Women of Questionable Virtue*, *More Bad Girls* has become a favorite of teachers and preachers everywhere, with Bible study groups, sermon series, retreat themes, and seminary classes forming across the country.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

**Barbara J. Essex** is a best-selling author of The Pilgrim Press. She has written 10 books, including the bestselling Bible studies: *Bad Girls of the Bible* and *Bad Boys of the Bible*. Essex is Executive Director at The United Protestant Campus Ministries in Cleveland.

**From:** Jennifer Conner jenniferconner79@gmail.com

**Subject:** Children/Tween ministry report

**Date:** December 15, 2017 at 12:05 PM

**To:** David Jones djones@wpcpc-tx.org, Shirley Barclay sbarclay@wpcpc-tx.org, Susan Duncan sduncan@wpcpc-tx.org,  
Rodger Richardson roger8226@sbcglobal.net

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Good afternoon,

The Children/Tween team did not meet in December. We shared our minutes from November at the joint meeting last month. We have no report. We will meet again in early January.

Thanks, Jen



## Meeting Notes

Creation Care Team Meeting  
December 13, 2018 3:30  
Library Hendricks Building

Members Present: Bill Bray, Sylvia Campbell, Glee Dodson, Sarah Federer, Peggy Hendricks, David Hitchcock, Cinda Hitchcock, Beverly Stockton

Sarah and David updated the group on recent activities in the Prayer Garden and with Thinners and Sinners. They have planted wildflowers, placed poinsettias, replaced the Christmas wreaths that were taken, spread compost, etc.

Cinda gave an update on monthly recycling: CCT members now pick up ELP's recycling and recently added cardboard. The amount now being collected, particularly cardboard, is becoming onerous. The group agreed to request volunteers from the congregation for monthly recycling shifts, to investigate the possibility of commercial recycling pick up and to include a request in the 2018 budget for this purpose.

Cinda presented the Overture recently approved by The Presbytery of New Covenant entitled Faithful Engagement with the Issue of Climate Change. If approved by another Presbytery, this overture will be submitted to the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly in 2018.

Bill also presented an overture similar to the one presented to WCPC Session two years ago, describing the destructive effects of high emissions of greenhouse gasses. The proposed overture requests PC (USA) to encourage Presbyterians and policy makers at all levels to take effective action to slow climate change. Specifically, the proposed overture requests advocacy for the rational pricing of carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions that will reduce consumption and support investment in sustainable alternative energy sources. This would be accompanied by per capita rebates of monies collected through this mechanism to assure that the least of us are not unduly burdened. .

The group agreed to present this proposed overture to the Session at its December meeting. If approved, it will be presented to the Presbytery at its March meeting with the objective of submittal to the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly in 2018.

of consumption and energy mix, the dividend would start at several hundred dollars per year (distributed monthly) and would rise to more than a thousand dollars in a decade. A carbon fee and dividend transfers money from capital intensive to more labor intensive segments of the economy, and is projected to provide an economic stimulus.

A third implementation detail that a carbon fee and dividend must address is a system of border adjustments to assure that production of energy-intensive products is not forced off shore. These import fees on products imported from countries without a carbon price (along with rebates for exports to countries without a price of carbon) will create a fair competitive environment for exporters. A carbon fee and dividend is the most transparent, predictable, and transportable method of pricing greenhouse gases around the world. When the United States enacts such a proposal, our huge economy will be a powerful driver for the countries without a price on carbon to adopt similar carbon pricing policies.

There is tremendous energy inequality around the world. The developed nations (which have contributed the most to the carbon emissions that are driving climate change) need to lead the development of low-carbon and no-carbon alternatives. A carbon fee and dividend will drive the growth of alternative energy sources and efficiency improvements that will benefit developing countries, allowing them to have greater access to lower-carbon energy sources and thus partially leap frog the "carbon stage." A key requirement of any energy and climate action is that it must support developing countries to provide greater access to energy and allow all people to reach their full potential.

#### *Summary*

We Presbyterians approach creation with the twin perspectives of responsible use ("tilling") and sustainable care ("keeping"). An ethic of stewardship, therefore, considers God's creation as a good in itself beyond utilitarian value, though creation is God's way of providing resources for human growth and community. The responsibility of holding wealth is directed toward an ethic of engagement that seeks to use the wealth to transform injustice and immorality. The necessary changes in consumption and investment behavior would be greatly accelerated and facilitated by consistent, rational pricing of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gas emissions. Action to bring about that outcome would be consistent with long-standing denominational policy statements and would be a faithful response to the urgent climate change issues that are before us.

[1] [https://www.presbyterianmission.org/site\\_media/media/uploads/environment/pdf/restoring-creation-for-ecology&justice.pdf](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/site_media/media/uploads/environment/pdf/restoring-creation-for-ecology&justice.pdf)

[2] Sustainability means "the ongoing capacity of natural and social systems to thrive together—which requires human beings to practice wise, humble, responsible stewardship, after the model of servanthood that we have in Jesus. Participation refers to the inclusion of all members of the human family in obtaining and enjoying the Creator's gifts for sustenance. Sufficiency provides for all to have enough through equitable sharing and organized efforts to achieve that end. Solidarity means "steadfastness in standing with companions, victims, and allies ... to the realization of the church's potential as a community of support for adventurous faithfulness."

[3] *Minutes*, 1984, Part I, p. 201.

# Evangelism Team Minutes - December 2017

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The Evangelism Team met on December 11. Attendees were Sheree Fleming, John Haynes, David Jones, Lucia Queen, and Bruce Lee (Building & Grounds Chair).

## Budget and 2018 Plans

- Evangelism will transfer budget responsibility for the Welcome Center food to Hospitality effective January 2018.
- We plan to upgrade our Woodlands Online presence from the free basic listing to a Business Publishing account for 2018. This will allow WCPC registered users to upload and maintain our own material to announce events and will provide more information than the basic listing.
- We are also developing a calendar of events to publicize using our new folding signs. Woodlands regulations allow temporary signs to be placed next to the monument sign four times a year.

## New Member Class

- The next class will begin February 4. New members will meet with the Session on March 4. The annual new member brunch is planned for March 25. We will consider an additional class later in the spring if there is sufficient interest.

## Sally K Ride Elementary Outreach

- David Jones has confirmed via email that the school is welcome to use up to 20 parking spaces in the rows in the WCPC parking lot closest to W. Panther Creek during the lunch period. They may also use our parking lot for evening events with prior approval.
- We have also reiterated our willingness to consider supporting the school in areas such as mentoring, reading buddies, etc.

## Campus Signage

- Delivery is expected this week on two campus maps, four exterior building signs, and a directional sign for the rear of the Hendricks Education Building corridor, funded from the remaining 2017 Evangelism budget. Building & Grounds will fund the replacement of accessible parking signs for the front lot.
- In early 2018, Evangelism proposes to purchase signs for the front and rear parking lot entrances and ceiling-mounted wayfinding signs for the area around the sanctuary, Fellowship Hall and office. A package illustrating these items is attached.
- We discussed considerations around the best location for a new monument sign. The backlog of Hurricane Harvey repair work has delayed getting contractors out to evaluate the driveway improvements and utility work that would accompany a new monument sign.
- In the meantime, Evangelism is working with Building & Grounds to determine if additional underbrush can be removed along W. Panther Creek Drive near the existing monument sign, as allowed by the Woodlands regulations that permit a 60° view corridor.

## We Choose Welcome

- We Choose Welcome is a PCUSA awareness campaign that expresses the denomination's commitment to welcome refugees and immigrants. WCPC already supports several ministries in this area, as described in the attached package.
- Evangelism proposes to place a We Choose Welcome sign on the front bulletin board of the Hendricks Education Building and to write a newsletter article providing additional information about this campaign. In addition, we will consider steps to improve our inclusion of the Bitsarang Korean Church, the PCUSA-affiliated worshipping community that meets in our church on Sunday afternoons.
- Additional initiatives may be considered as the congregation learns about this campaign.

## Vital Congregations

## Evangelism Team Minutes – December 2017

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- David Jones provided a brief introduction to the PCUSA Vital Congregations pilot. We conducted a first reading of the questions for Intentional Authentic Evangelism, which is one of seven marks of a Vital Congregation.

### **Welcome Center and Greeters**

- Greeter sign-ups are now located on SignUp Genius, which can be accessed from the general SignUp Genius link under Adult Connect or from the Greeters' section of the Adult Connect/ Serving Within dropdown.
- We agreed to add an invitation to the Welcome Center in the Life of the Church. Welcome Center hosts are needed for all months. This involves greeting everyone that visits the Welcome Center before, between, and after services. It provides a chance to talk with members and visitors about church organizations and to provide a welcome to the church. Contact John Haynes or Sheree Fleming to volunteer.

### **Materials for New Members and Visitors**

- Lucia Queen is investigating refreshing the materials given to new members and visitors. This may include reusable shopping bags imprinted with WCPC identification. We are also considering offering these to congregation members at a reduced cost in order to get more bags in circulation and to raise awareness of our church.

The next Evangelism team meeting will be January 29 at 4 pm.

## 2018 Earth Care Congregation Application, Visions Section

- Climate Overture for 2018 General Assembly, Endorsement of Carbon Fee & Dividend \*
- Recycling, Commercial Pick Up, to begin in June, 2018 (If ELP agrees to split cost)
- Continue Prayer Garden, Thinners & Sinners, Recycling, Good News Herald E.Z. Peezy quips & short articles and most other 2017 vision items that are ongoing
- Explore possibilities of connecting with GreenFaith

## 2018 Budget Request

- Presbyterians for Earth Care Membership Dues--\$75.00
- Pollinator Plants, Annuals, Soil Amendments--\$1,000
- Commercial Recycling, 6 months--\$135, delivery of 4 cubic yard container; \$810, bi-weekly pickup; \$1,000, pad preparation and fencing; Total:  $\$1,945/2 = \$973$
- Total: \$2,048

## Schedule

Session Approval of 2018 ECC 2018 Application—January 16

ECC 2018 Application Submission to PC (USA) January 17

Love Your Neighbor Day, January 27

GreenUp/CleanUp—March 24

Next Meeting Date: January 8, 7:00 p.m.

\* see attached

## Recommendation

The Presbytery of ----- respectfully overtures the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly (2018) to do the following:

1. Express its profound concern about the destructive effects of climate change on all God's creation, including a disproportionate impact on those living in poverty and in the least developed countries, the elderly and children, and those least responsible for the emissions of greenhouse gases.
2. Recognize the Gospel's call and the moral mandate for humanity to shift to a sustainable energy regime in ways that are both just and compassionate. This mandate compels us to action as a denomination to implement strategies and actions that directly engage climate change and that offer a realistic prospect of changing the behaviors that are at the root of the issue.
3. Work with citizens/voters, legislators, other decision-makers, and other organizations that have parallel goals<sup>[1]</sup> to bring into effect national and international policies that create a consistent, rational, and escalating price for emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases, which will reduce consumption and support investment in sustainable alternative energy sources.
4. Protect the poor by advocating policies that implement emissions pricing and offset the regressive nature of the pricing mechanism, such as per capita rebates of all taxes or fees collected through the pricing mechanism.
5. Direct the Office of Public Witness, Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy, in collaboration with the Presbyterian Mission Agency programs (such as Presbyterian Environmental Ministries and its Earth Care Congregations) to advocate at local, state, and federal levels for policies to rationally price the production of carbon and, therefore, reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This advocacy would include the following:
  - Work with other faith-based organizations (such as Interfaith Power and Light, Creation Justice Ministries, GreenFaith) to maximize our effectiveness in taking individual and collective action to slow climate change.
  - Develop educational materials to assist congregations and councils of the church in understanding the impact of climate change and how to take action to slow climate change.
6. Commend the Office of Faith-Based Investing and Corporate Engagement (and the multi-agency board Mission Responsibility through Investment (MRTI)) for its long history of engagement with companies on issues related to climate change, and instruct MRTI to continue that engagement, especially in support of carbon pricing.
7. Direct the Stated Clerk of the PC(USA) to inform the denomination and the larger public of the passage and implementation of this overture.
  1. Citizens' Climate Lobby is one such organization and their proposed Carbon Fee and Dividend is one effective method of Carbon Pricing.

## Rationale

In 1981, our church made clear through the document, "The Power to Speak Truth to Power," the importance of transitioning away from a fossil fuel-based economy.

In 2006, the General Assembly passed a resolution calling all Presbyterians to go Carbon Neutral as our Christian witness to combat the effects of climate change.

In 2008, our church made clear through the document, "The Power to Change," that the catastrophic effects of climate change make the transition to renewable and away from dependence on fossil fuels essential to the preservation of human life and God's good creation.

We, as Christians, have the privilege, responsibility, and obligation to speak with moral authority on issues of great importance. This is such an issue.

It is not enough simply to speak truth to power. We must enact in our individual, congregational, and denominational lives meaningful approaches that directly address concerns about climate change and that may require sacrifice. This overture seeks to unite all Presbyterians in directly engaging climate change with responsible, meaningful, and lasting actions that will make a difference in the future of God's creation. We recognize that emission of greenhouse gases leading to climate change encompasses every sector of our modern economy, at home and around the globe. The following lists major areas, that are linked in complex ways: 1) Transportation – American dependence on the gasoline-powered private automobile rather than support of mass transportation and alternative automobile fuels. 2) Agricultural production, particularly the industrial-scale production of meat, but also heavy dependence on fossil fuel based fertilizers and pesticides. 3) Energy consumption for heating and cooling of virtually all human-inhabited structures. 4) Communications and information technology that uses vast amounts of energy and precious metals. 5) Health care goods and services and medical advances that rely on plastics (hydrocarbon-based products). We cannot extricate ourselves from these systems without withdrawing from modern life. Every member of the PC(USA) uses fossil fuels daily in hundreds of applications that significantly improve quality of life, and yet we also succumb to mindless consumption of products that damage the earth and our fellow human beings. Acknowledging our complicity in damage to the earth, we resolve to move forward together toward a post-fossil fuel economy.

### *Some Positive Steps*

In the 10 years since "The Power to Change" progress has been made on many fronts to advance renewable energy sources and technologies, and there have been setbacks as well, most recently the declaration by the Trump administration to withdraw from the 2015 Paris Climate Accord. We begin with some good news: the United States has been gradually reducing its greenhouse gas emissions in recent years. Between 2004 and 2013, emissions in total declined nearly 9 percent, while per capita emissions are down more than 15 percent. China has made significant investments in green energy. It plans to increase its solar-energy capacity this year alone by 18 gigawatts—as much solar-energy capacity as exists in the U.S. right now. Its wind-energy production has increased tenfold in a half-dozen years, and the country is in the midst of what one analyst called "the largest build-out of hydroelectricity the world has ever seen." The cost of solar power is rapidly declining. In the sunniest locations in the world, building a new solar-power plant now costs less than coal or natural gas, even without subsidies, and within six years, this will be true of places with average sunlight, too. Coal (the dirtiest of fossil fuels) production has declined in favor of natural gas and is unlikely to resume its former prominence.

### *Biblical and Theological Rationale*

Ecology and justice are implicit in the story of creation itself: “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to *till it and keep it*” (Gen. 2:15, emphasis added). As the 1990 study, *Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice*, (“RCEJ”) observes, “tilling” requires a community effort that establishes an economy; “keeping” is an act of environmental stewardship that regards the creation as a gift to be cared for. RCEJ identifies four norms that characterize “a new faithfulness” reflecting God’s love for the world: sustainability, participation, sufficiency, and solidarity.<sup>[2]</sup> These highlight the inherent tensions. We cannot address only the good of the creation without also considering the good of the community. We cannot address only the good of the community without considering the good of creation. Global climate change, regardless of its cause, threatens both the community and the earth over which we are stewards. Our call is to address these threats responsibly, with meaningful effect, while promoting economic justice.

### *Denominational and Faith-Based Rationale*

Our denomination has long recognized a moral obligation to be faithful stewards of God’s creation. We have acknowledged the realities of climate change and its effect on the “least of these,” and the need to take action. Previous General Assemblies (1981, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2006, and 2008) have passed overtures, resolutions, and reports warning us of the dangers of climate change and calling on us to reduce our energy consumption and transition away from fossil fuels. Now is the time to move beyond pronouncements and symbolic actions into education and behavioral changes.

People of every faith tradition are re-committing to the theological call to stewardship in increasing numbers. GreenFaith: Interfaith Partners for the Environment includes Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, and Christian traditions. Our traditional partners from the mainline Protestant tradition are joined by Roman Catholics energized by Pope Francis’ highly regarded encyclical *Laudato Si* as well as Young Evangelicals for Climate Action and the Evangelical Environmental Network. It is particularly encouraging that young members are deeply committed to creation care.<sup>1</sup>

### *An Effective Approach*

The actions proposed in this overture include advocacy to bring into effect consistent, rational pricing of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gas emissions, together with mechanisms to protect the poor by addressing the inherently regressive nature of any such system. We believe the four questions above are all answered in the affirmative for this proposal.

From our perspective, the root cause of the climate change issue is behaviors—both consumption and investment. We all engage in destructive behaviors. We do this in part because we do not bear the full social costs of our behaviors, a problem that economists label “negative externalities.” Consistent rational pricing of emissions will enlist market forces to drive those changes in individual and institutional consumption necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and will provide the economic incentive necessary to promote investment to develop and implement low-carbon or zero-carbon infrastructure and technologies. Affordable energy would continue to be available to drive responsible economic development, while emissions driven by our consumption would decline. We thus address our dual responsibility to promote the well-being of the disadvantaged and to protect the earth.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.greenfaith.org>, <http://www.creationjustice.org/members-and-partners.html>, <http://www.yecaction.org>, <http://www.creationcare.org>, [http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html),



When we evaluate the actions proposed in this overture from the perspective of the four questions above, we conclude: The actions proposed in this overture will address the problem, they will have a practical effect, we are prepared to be subject to the proposed system ourselves, and—assuming the regressive effects are properly dealt with—the proposed actions will advance economic justice.

Even if the more disastrous scenarios of climate change do not materialize, pricing carbon (reducing our consumption and investing more in renewable energy sources) has little downside. Pricing carbon can therefore be seen as insurance against the more dire consequences of climate change. It will also conserve our hydrocarbon resources for that many more generations.

We recognize that the consistent pricing of greenhouse gas emissions will affect the business prospects of the fossil fuel industry and industries that rely on fossil fuels, and we are not insensitive to the challenge this may create for those employed in or dependent upon those industries. We note that it is the intent of our proposal that greenhouse gas emissions be priced so as to reflect the full social and environmental cost of their production. We note also that it is the responsibility of every industry to adapt to changes in prices in the markets in which it operates. As the global economy adapts to rational pricing of emissions, we expect our investment managers to adjust our portfolios. We expect investments to be shifted away from firms and industries that adapt poorly to the new alternative energy economy and toward firms and industries that should benefit.

An effective method of pricing is a Carbon Fee and Dividend as developed and advocated by Citizens' Climate Lobby.

#### *Citizens' Climate Lobby's Carbon Fee and Dividend Proposal*

The Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) has developed and is advocating for a comprehensive approach to implement such a plan. Full details may be found at the CCL website <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/>. The fee is collected on the major greenhouse gases (which include CO<sub>2</sub> and methane) when they are produced (at the well or mine) or imported, and the amount is based on the amount of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent produced when burned or emitted. The dividend is the return of 100 percent of the fees to the public on a per capita basis. The carbon fee and dividend should be implemented as soon as practical at a moderate level of \$15/MT to \$40/MT. (The current official CCL proposal starts at \$15/MT, while others advocate starting somewhat higher.) That level is increased every year (at a rate of \$10 per MT per year) to provide clear price signals to consumers and industry.

The CCL plan phases in the emissions price over time, rather than jumping from the current explicit price of zero to the full social cost all in one step, and then raises the fee annually to continually increase the incentive to shift to cleaner energy sources.

This predictable increase will allow industry to make the large investments necessary to expand alternative energy sources and become more efficient while providing the energy we and the world need. The fee assures that market prices favor lower carbon energy sources, while the dividend redresses the inherently regressive nature of the fee. For example, electricity produced by natural gas generates about 50 percent of the CO<sub>2</sub> produced by generating from coal. A \$15/MT carbon fee will add about 1.6¢/kwhr to the price of electricity from coal, but only 0.6¢/kwhr for electricity from natural gas-based electricity (assuming a U.S. average price of 10¢/kwhr). After a decade the fee will have increased to \$115/MT, adding 12.1¢/kwhr for coal but only 5.0¢/kwhr for natural gas. Looking at the example of gasoline, a \$15/MT fee will add about 15¢/gallon at the pump, increasing to \$1.15/gallon over a decade.

In the CCL plan, the dividend would be allocated based on "shares," with one share per person up to 4 shares per family and a half share for children under 18. At the current levels

# The Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church

An inclusive Church Family: Loving, Sharing and Serving Christ

## Minutes for the Joint Meeting of the Session and Board of Deacons

November 28, 2017

**Deacon Attendees:** Carrie Bucki, Laura Grice, Mary Jo Chapman, Kathy Bray, Debra Martinez, Mignon Mabry, Daniece Peck, Jane Harding, Barbie Hardy, Erin Michaelis

**Call to Order and Opening Prayer:**

**Read/Share/Prayer:**

Break into groups of 3-4 and read Romans 12: 3-8 noting words or phrases that stand out.

**Review Minutes from October Board of Deacon and Session meetings:** approved

**Pastor's Report:**

Officer/Staff Planning Meeting on Saturday, February 10, 2018 from 9 am - 3 pm

Invitation to attend a meeting with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Dept. which is hosting a Church Security Information Class on the following dates: Dec 11 and Dec 12 at the Lone Star Convention Center. Deadline to register is Dec 7. Let David know if you would like to attend.

**Associate Pastor's Report:**

Stephen Ministries will be reading "Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart" and will meet to discuss on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays in February, March, and April. Let Laura know if you would like a copy of the book to participate.

**Clerk's Report:**

Report from Commissioners attending the November Presbytery meeting: Cinda Hitchcock, Ria Dubryn, Megan Hansen

Transfer of membership for Elizabeth Duncan granted

**Ministry Team Reports:**

**Baby:** Beth North & Jane Harding - no report

**Bereavement:** Laura Grice & Ed Allen - prayer service for Ruth Miller on Sunday at 2 pm

**Building and Grounds:** Bruce Lee- Pulley in sanctuary to be fixed, 16 members and 9 Boy Scouts helped in Blessed Friday, Dec 26 power washing of building, motion made to form a Safety and Emergency Committee

**Card:** Karen Gonzales & Leslie Lee - cards to Sam Davis Pat Miller, Robert Thomas, Kathy Gage

**Christian Enrichment (Adults):** Ria Du Bruyn - see submitted report

**Christian Enrichment (Children/Tweens):** Jen Conner - see submitted report

**Cookie:** Barbie Hardy & Jane Harding - cookie request for Ruth Miller's service

**Creation Care:** Cinda Hitchcock- Looking into the cost of community recycling; continued yard maintenance

**Evangelism:** Sheree Fleming- ordering building sign, campus maps, parking signs; motion passed for the names of the buildings to be Youth & Children's Educational Building and Hendricks Educational Building; please continue to use the Sign-Up Genius

**Fellowship:** Cinda Hitchcock- 50-60 people have been attending WAM meals; Dec 17 is the Christmas Dinner and concert

**Finance:** Bubba Davis- a second vote was taken and a motion was passed to access the TX Presbyterian Fund to meet the budget for 2017, if needed.

**Home Outreach:** Tammy Rand & Mignon Mabry - maintaining a list of home bound members and visiting them; prayer wreaths for home bound members will be made at the Women's Luncheon

**Hospital:** Kathy Bray & Daniece Peck & Debra Martinez - Kathy visited Sam Davis

**Meal:** Janet Youngblood & Erin Michaelis - no report

**Mission/Outreach:** Gordy Lentz- money is being pulled from the orphanage in Zambia due to poor management of the funds; Dec 3 is the Alternative Market during Sunday School

**New Member:** Mary Jo Chapman & Kristen Campbell - 11 people attended the last class and the next class will be sometime in February.

**Personnel:** Todd Duncan- staff evaluations are almost completed and they are working on the 2018 personnel budget

**Prayer:** Kim Petrie- Family Report of needs, prayers or concerns: be sure to check the weekly prayer list to see if any of your families are on there.

**Worship:** Nancy Castro- this week's 11 am service communion will be passed around instead of stations

**Youth:** Megan Hansen- shoeboxes needed for Seafarers Kits; Dec 30 the Youth will be hosting a Coffee House and Open Mic Night at 6:30 pm - please come!

**Deacon Family Reports:**

**Old Business:**

1. Session Team will be asked for their 2018 Budgets

Questions for individual and church family evaluation:

1. What are you doing that you need to keep doing?
2. What are you doing that you shouldn't be doing?
3. What do you need to start doing?

\$7,500 was raised from the Chili Cook Off with \$1,200 going to each church family affected by Harvey

**Next Deacon Meeting:** Tuesday, January 9, 2018

**Next Session Meeting:** Tuesday, December 19, 2017: Debra Martinez

**Closing Prayer:** Pastor Laura Grice

**Adjournment Signature & time:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Bucki

Board of Deacon Co-moderator

**From:** Jennifer Conner jenniferconner79@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Children/Tween ministry report  
**Date:** December 15, 2017 at 12:05 PM  
**To:** David Jones djones@wpcpc-tx.org, Shirley Barclay sbarclay@wpcpc-tx.org, Susan Duncan sduncan@wpcpc-tx.org,  
Rodger Richardson roger8226@sbcglobal.net

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Good afternoon,

The Children/Tween team did not meet in December. We shared our minutes from November at the joint meeting last month. We have no report. We will meet again in early January.

Thanks, Jen

**From:** Shirley Barclay sbarclay@wcpc-tx.org  
**Subject:** FW: Worship Team Minutes  
**Date:** December 15, 2017 at 3:12 PM  
**To:** Bowhead8 Bowhead8@yahoo.com, megateer megateer@gmail.com, sgfleml sgfleml@gmail.com, tmduncan173 tmduncan173@gmail.com, balee5068 balee5068@gmail.com, jenniferconner79 jenniferconner79@gmail.com, nancyc1254 nancyc1254@yahoo.com, ria.smit.dubruyn ria.smit.dubruyn@gmail.com, cchtx cchtx@att.net, gordon.lentz gordon.lentz@yahoo.com, liddellchris liddellchris@hotmail.com, Sarah Sarah.anne.martin@comcast.net, wdavis88 wdavis88@comcast.net  
**Cc:** Cindy Mountain cmountain@wcpc-tx.org, dave.faber dave.faber@lonestar.edu, David Jones djones@wcpc-tx.org, ELP elp@wcpc-tx.org, Fran Weissbach fweissbach@wcpc-tx.org, Jonathan Aigner jaigner@wcpc-tx.org, Laura Grice lgrice@wcpc-tx.org, Matthew Jensen mjensen@wcpc-tx.org, Michele Stelter mstelter@wcpc-tx.org, roger8226 roger8226@sbcglobal.net, sherryhunter sherryhunter@comcast.net, Susan Duncan sduncan@wcpc-tx.org

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Nancy Castro [<mailto:nancyc1254@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 15, 2017 3:02 PM  
**To:** Shirley Barclay <[sbarclay@wcpc-tx.org](mailto:sbarclay@wcpc-tx.org)>  
**Subject:** Worship Team Minutes

Shirley,  
Will you please pass the Worship Team minutes on to the other Session members?  
Thanks,  
Nancy

#### Worship Team Minutes December 10, 2017

Present: David Jones, Jonathan Aigner, Bruce Lee, Eleanor Stone, Nancy Castro

Nancy Castro opened the meeting with prayer.

**Communion:** Christmas Eve Communion will be served by passing the trays of bread and juice down the pew rows. There will be 5 teams of servers passing trays for the congregation sitting in the pews and the pastors will start the bread and juice trays for the choir members in the choir loft. Section H (on the far right as you enter the church) will have the long 1<sup>st</sup> 4 rows roped off. Servers will arrive at the church at 6:30 pm for a "walk through" and instructions. The head ushers will be Eleanor Stone for the 5:00 pm Family Candle Lighting Service and Bruce Lee for the 7:00 pm Communion and Candle Lighting service.

On Jan. 7, 2018 Communion will be served by congregants coming forward to stations at both the 8:30 and 11:00 am services. On Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>, the Worship Team is tentatively planning for Communion at the 11:00 am service to be served by passing the trays down the rows.

The Worship Team encourages Session members to serve Communion when they can.

**Concert Choir and Catered Dinner:** On Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, there will be a dinner, catered by The Republic Grille. Serving will begin at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The Children Choirs and Chimes will sing and play during the meal. The Choir Concert will perform *The Word Became Flesh*, beginning at 6:15 pm in the Sanctuary.

**FCC Wireless Transmitters and headsets:** Jeff Kaiser is pricing and will be purchasing 2 new transmitters for the pastors. Headsets will be purchased at a later time.

**Sanctuary Guild:** The Sanctuary Guild decorated the Narthex and Sanctuary on Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>. There will not be a meeting in Dec., however the Guild gathered together for a fun evening at Paul and Nancy Shlirf's home.

David Jones closed the meeting with prayer.

Next meeting: January 14, 2018

## Meeting Notes

Creation Care Team Meeting  
December 13, 2018 3:30  
Library Hendricks Building

Members Present: Bill Bray, Sylvia Campbell, Glee Dodson, Sarah Federer, Peggy Hendricks, David Hitchcock, Cinda Hitchcock, Beverly Stockton

Sarah and David updated the group on recent activities in the Prayer Garden and with Thinners and Sinners. They have planted wildflowers, placed poinsettias, replaced the Christmas wreaths that were taken, spread compost, etc.

Cinda gave an update on monthly recycling: CCT members now pick up ELP's recycling and recently added cardboard. The amount now being collected, particularly cardboard, is becoming onerous. The group agreed to request volunteers from the congregation for monthly recycling shifts, to investigate the possibility of commercial recycling pick up and to include a request in the 2018 budget for this purpose.

Cinda presented the Overture recently approved by The Presbytery of New Covenant entitled Faithful Engagement with the Issue of Climate Change. If approved by another Presbytery, this overture will be submitted to the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly in 2018.

Bill also presented an overture similar to the one presented to WCPC Session two years ago, describing the destructive effects of high emissions of greenhouse gasses. The proposed overture requests PC (USA) to encourage Presbyterians and policy makers at all levels to take effective action to slow climate change. Specifically, the proposed overture requests advocacy for the rational pricing of carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions that will reduce consumption and support investment in sustainable alternative energy sources. This would be accompanied by per capita rebates of monies collected through this mechanism to assure that the least of us are not unduly burdened. .

The group agreed to present this proposed overture to the Session at its December meeting. If approved, it will be presented to the Presbytery at its March meeting with the objective of submittal to the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly in 2018.