**Report of Stated Clerk to COM (& Consent Agenda)**

1/18/2021

**For Action:**

**\*1. That the COM Consent Agenda be approved.**

**COM Consent Agenda:**

1. Approve minutes of January 7, 2021 COM stated meeting
2. Concur with placement of Shella Choi by the United Methodist Superintendent for service at Erie Federated Presbyterian Church and receive her as a temporary member of Presbytery for her term of service at Erie.
3. Receive the reports of the COM subcommittee working with the Shurtzes (attached)
4. Receive the reports of the exit interviews with the Community session and with JayE Shurtz (attached)

**For Information:**

1. According to Presbytery Bylaws, members of Presbytery committees have voice but not vote at Presbytery meetings.

2. Please note that Pastoral Presbyter Malinda Spencer conducted an executive reference check with Mission Presbytery, speaking with a representative of the candidates committee, concerning Chelsea May LaRue. The candidates committee is glad for her to serve as pulpit supply and to gain hospice chaplaincy experience.

3. Child Protection Policy meeting—Subcommittee met 1/14, 1/27, and 2/3/21. The work has grown to encompass a Child/Youth/Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy for the Presbytery and a template for use by our churches. Thanks to Patty Orchard (First, Mountain View) for spearheading the effort and the rest of the committee for their input and review: Greg Carter (First, Joplin), Rev. Jennifer Dawson (First, Parsons), Rev. Bill Havens HR, and Robert Reed (Trinity, Springfield). The draft policies will be presented to you as soon as they are complete.

4. Boundaries Training: Malinda held Boundaries Training January 26th, attended by multiple people including three pastors on the verge of being reported as noncompliant for 2020: Marvin Groote, Larry Gantt, and Joe Crews. Because of the pandemic, we offered that attendance at this particular meeting would “count” for 2020 and 2021 for them.

Three other pastors did not attend Boundaries Training for 2020:

Shella Choi (Erie) started work in our presbytery recently. Steve Traw has significant mobility issues and is awaiting double back surgery 2/4/21. Robert Bartels has registered for the upcoming training at Willow Springs (3/16/21). I will extend grace and not report anyone as noncompliant for 2020 and work to hopefully have everyone be compliant for 2021.

5. Pastors new to their calls in 2019 and 2020 were invited to participate in a small-group coaching program through the Synod of Lincoln Trails, with Presbytery helping to fund their participation. None of our pastors have expressed interest to Malinda or Beth.

6. Email motion: Reina Daleske moved (and Toni Spieth seconded) that we combine our February and March meetings and meet on February 18 at 10 a.m. by Zoom.--Approved

**Attachment 1: Three Reports of the COM Subcommittee working with the Shurtzes**

John Calvin Presbytery

Committee on Ministry

Minutes of Subcommittee Meeting by Zoom

**December 17, 2020**

Members Present: Reina Daleske (moderator), Diane Cooke, Dan Davis, Dale Hill, Peggy Wobbema

Ex-Officio Present: Beth Kick, Malinda Spencer

Reina called the meeting to order in prayer at 10:16 a.m.

Concerning JayE Shurtz’s emailed resignation to Community’s session, Peggy advised trusting Community’s session to deal with the situation. Jane Huffstetler will moderate their meeting tonight.

Peggy moved **that the subcommittee recommend to COM at its January meeting that JayE Shurtz be removed from the pulpit supply list for the time being.**—Approved by consensus

Dan moved **that the subcommittee allow Peggy to talk one-on-one with JayE, with the stipulation that she goes not only as a friend and fellow minister but also as a representative of the COM to listen, to offer advice, and to be able to report back to the COM subcommittee with recommendations**.—Seconded and approved (Peggy abstained, one “no,” three “yes”)

Peggy hopes to set this conversation up after January 1. (She has vacation the week after Christmas.) She will let the subcommittee know when the meeting has been arranged. She must proceed with caution because of COVID.

The subcommittee agreed by consensus to approve Peggy to contact Clerk of Session, Dennis Pirkle, to see what is going on in the Hideaway congregation.

Peggy plans to arrange a meeting after January 1 with Dale, Charley, JayE (if her chaplain schedule allows), Dennis Pirkle, and herself to fulfill COM’s instructions, hoping to complete the meeting prior to COM’s January 7 meeting.

Peggy will keep the subcommittee informed. The subcommittee agreed to hold the people involved in prayer.

Dan held up those involved in prayer as he closed the meeting in prayer at 11:40 a.m.

Minutes/notes taken by Beth Kick

John Calvin Presbytery

Committee on Ministry

Minutes of Subcommittee Meeting by Zoom

**January 13, 2021**

Members Present: Reina Daleske (moderator), Diane Cooke, Dan Davis, Dale Hill, Peggy Wobbema

Ex-Officio Present: Beth Kick, Malinda Spencer

Reina called the meeting to order in prayer at 1 p.m.

Peggy and Dale explained the history of the hurt JayE and Charley Shurtz have experienced, the misunderstanding and miscommunication, beginning with their involvement with the Korean Presbyterian Church. Diane explained the ways a previous COM subcommittee (Jared Witt, Peggy, Diane) had explored ways to extend grace to JayE, to help her meet the exam requirements, and noted that the door was still open to help JayE through the process.

The subcommittee concluded that:

1. Exit interviews, as usual, will be conducted individually with the Community session and with JayE. JayE will be asked if she wants her name placed back on the Presbytery’s pulpit supply list. (If placed back on the pulpit supply list, COM permission will be required before each opportunity to serve communion.)(Reina Daleske and Peggy Wobbema will conduct the exit interview with JayE.)
2. Let time pass so the emotions diffuse (before asking Charley for additional involvement in the Presbytery).
3. Develop a template for supply contracts detailing permissions given; note that contracts must be renewed annually and approved by COM; post on website.
4. Be clear going forward about the steps involved in the process of becoming a PC(USA) Teaching Elder when coming from another denomination.
5. Peggy will prepare a bulleted summary for the Consent Agenda for the next COM meeting, to be reviewed by Dale and Reina.

Minutes/notes taken by Beth Kick

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Report for Sub-Committee & COM regarding meetings with JayE and Charley Schurtz

Peggy met with JayE by Zoom for 1.5 hours on December 18, 2020

* JayE shared her disappointment and hurt over multiple situations. I was able to listen to her concerns, encourage her current ministry as a hospice chaplain, and share PCUSA polity with her that addressed some of her difficulties.
* JayE expressed her love for preaching, but stated she had resigned from her pastoral contract with Community in Forsyth, ending January 17, 2021. She no longer has a sense of belonging in the Presbytery due to being “spoke down to” by various individuals. This felt like a “race” issue to her and is something she says she has dealt with in many other situations.
* JayE assured me that she is doing OK and will now concentrate on her current ministry.
* It should be noted that Charley was sitting in a chair close to JayE and heard our entire conversation. I was comfortable with that and felt it was good to allow both of them at the time to share their hurt and concerns.

Peggy and Dale met with Charley at Hideaway Presbyterian Church on January 5, 2021

* Charley was invited to share the joys and concerns at Hideaway which opened the door for Dale and I to ask him about his concerns with JayE and their current situation.
* Charley expressed the hurt he watched JayE go through and feels strongly that it his responsibility as her husband to protect her. Charley did express concerns that the difficulties (according to his judgment) have much to do with JayE being a woman and Korean, thus presenting 2 areas of prejudice within JCP.
* Charley openly expressed his concerns regarding “white” individuals under previous presbytery leadership receiving grace in their ordination processes but under current leadership everything is “by the book” thus not willing to make a more gracious path for JayE.
* Charley loves his ministry with Hideaway and intends to continue with joy. He is not ruling out being involved in the Presbytery in one way or another in the future, just not now.

At the end of our time with Charley, prayer was offered for healing of the situation with JayE and Charley and the hope of continued success in ministry through the presence and power of the Spirit.

Recommendation from Peggy & Dale: Let the “fire” of this issue calm down and only address the situation again in the future if needed. Offer the hands of love and fellowship to Charley and JayE when the situation warrants us to do so. Peggy as the liaison for Hideaway will continue friendship with both of them going forward.

Report submitted by Rev. Dr. Peggy Wobbema

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**Attachment 2: Exit Interviews with Community (Forsyth) and with JayE Shurtz**

Jaye Shurtz Exit Interview

Community Presbyterian Church, Forsyth

January 20, 2021

Jaye had given her 30-day notice to Community Presbyterian Church in Forsyth, with her final day being Sunday, January 17th. The interview was conducted with Pastor Peggy Wobbema and Elder Liaison Reina Daleske on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, via Zoom conference call.

Jaye shared her work with Community taught her many things. The number one lesson learned was the time management challenge. She was intentional in her study of the Bible. Although her contract required 10 hours per week, Jaye provided the Sunday sermon, emailed the Wednesday Bible lesson, wrote an article for the monthly newsletter, served communion to the homebound, and returned emails and telephone calls.

This position allowed Jaye to learn what it takes to pastor a church. With the above, Jaye learned about different types of personalities, and the time to drive 2-3 times a week to the church to accomplish all that she wanted to do. She loved being a pastor to the church, preaching and writing.

Jaye continued to share that it would have been helpful to understand more clearly her leadership role in the church position. She tried to keep a soft heart and tough skin. Ideas on how Presbytery could have been more helpful were not offered.

Jaye recommended a strong leader to lead the Community congregation as they search for an interim. She will pray for their new future.

The last Sunday for Jaye was emotional. She received a bag, church cookbook and a card shower on this day. The notes on the cards were very nice and she felt her service to Community was much appreciated.

Jaye closed with sharing that November and December were very difficult with the loss of so many patients in her hospice job and providing for the church. She asked for prayer to give her rest in body, soul and spirit.

At this time, Jaye wishes to be excluded from pulpit supply unless a certain congregation needs her help.

Prayerfully submitted,

Pastor Peggy Wobbema

Elder Liaison Reina Daleske

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Pastor Jaye Shurtz Exit Interview

Community Presbyterian Church Session

Thursday, January 28, 2021

This exit interview was done in-person as part of Community’s session meeting on February 28, 2021. Pastor Jaye had given her 30-day notice and her last day was Sunday, January 17, 2021. Jaye’s contract stated 10 hours per week. In attempting to bring everyone to the table for discussion, only a few shared their thoughts.

Jaye’s strengths included: writing sermons, Wednesday Thoughts that were sent out by email, articles for monthly newsletter, and home communion. Her personality shown through in all that she did for the church. One person said Jaye had called him after she left on the 17th, to check up on how he was doing.

It was difficult to hear and understand Jaye and several said this made them listen closer to the sermon. Jaye was able to work out the cantata to have the vocalists in different corners of the church instead of a choir format.

In summary, they appreciated her time with them and hoped they hadn’t done anything to offend her. They were happy Jaye honored her 30-day notice. On the last Sunday she was given a bag, Community church cookbook and many cards expressing their gratitude.

No mention was made to the called session meeting on November 10, 2020 where the cantata and communication between Jaye and the choir director was discussed.

Respectfully submitted,

Elder Liaison Reina Daleske

Pastor Jane Huffstettler