



**Blessing of the Animals Service  
Sunday, May 21**

On May 21st, we'll bring back a beloved First Pres tradition as we worship together to "bless the animals" in our lives, and those who share our planet. This will be our communal worship service for the day, starting as always at 10:30 a.m. Bring your animal if that is the best way for you to mark the day. We'll be in the courtyard (or Fellowship Hall if it rains). For some, bringing a picture of their animal will allow them to be part of the service. You'll be welcome to move under the covered walkways if you need shade, and the service will be planned to be a bit shorter than normal. We hope you will come be part of celebrating all God's creatures!

May 21st also marks the last Sunday that Ryan Larkin will be with us as Interim Director of Children, Youth, and Young Adult Ministries. Please plan to stay after the 10:30am worship service and Blessing of the Animals to thank Ryan and celebrate his gifts in ministry with a cake reception in the courtyard.

If you would like to contribute to a community thank you gift for Ryan, please make a donation in the offering plate or on the church website, noting "Gift for Ryan" in the memo line. You may also give your donation directly to Kathy Merkle-Raymond, Director of Communal Care, on any upcoming Sunday. We give thanks for Ryan's one year of service and leadership with the children, youth and young adult members of First Pres, and we wish him well as he discerns God's next call for him in ministry!

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**Minutes for Stated Session Meeting  
Wednesday, February 15, 2017 (7:15-9:30 pm)  
Classroom 1**

The meeting was called to order by Rob Martin, Moderator at 7:15. Karen Wentzel offered the opening reflection and prayer. A quorum was present.

Present: Scott Brenneman, Greer Ellison, Evan Hughes, Rick Keller, Pat Kinney, David Leith, Susan Phinney-Silver, Standley Scott; Joy Sleizer; Karen Wentzel, Evelyn Wong

Staff: Annanda Barclay; Andy Chislett; Sarah Clementson; Ryan Larkin; Kathy Merkle-Raymond; Rob Martin

Excused: Tom Ellison

The agenda was approved.

**CLERK'S REPORT** – Karen Wentzel

- Communion was served to 98 people on February 5, 2017
- Email received from Craig Wiesner about the success of the internship program and Rob's role in making that happen was distributed

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

- Confirmed that Motions 1 and 2 as presented by Staff Relations on January 12 were passed by electronic vote; Motion 1 by a vote of 12-0; Motion 2 by a vote of 10-2.
- Minutes from the Session meeting of January 18, 2017, and from the Congregational Meeting of February 5, 2017 were approved as written
- Ministry Reports from Finance, Shepherding, Social Justice, and year end reports from Social Justice and Cool Planet were accepted.

## **ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- David Leith asked for further amendments to the Amended Session Minutes from January 12, 2017. Further amendments were discussed and approved by Session.
- David Leith raised the issue of whether the minutes of the Annual Meeting of February 12, 2017 were detailed enough. The minutes were unanimously accepted as written. It was noted that there is a sound recording of the meeting for anyone who wants further detail.
- Joy Sleizer reported on plans for the next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday congregation-wide social action event, noting that the last event was a great success and involved a multi-generational crowd with many children in attendance. The next event would normally fall on April 29, but may take place instead on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, which is Earth Day. Kathy Barton has graciously agreed to take the lead on organizing Hotel de Zink this year with Joy's help. Many thanks to Kathy for this offer!
- Review of Annual Meeting – Session members and staff held a lengthy discussion about the Annual Meeting. Staff members attended voluntarily as a show of support for Rob's ministry. Multiple Session members stated that they felt the way the questions were asked from the floor at the meeting were in many instances hurtful and unkind, and were also uninformed, appearing to have been pre-planned and then carried forward without regard for the new plans presented at the meeting to reorganize our staff and reduce dependency on the Legacy Fund. Several Session members and staff also noted their disappointment that more Session members had not spoken up to support what was a creative and responsible plan for moving forward. Session members also noted that the decision not to publish the new plan and the budget before the meeting was a deliberate one so as to not leak significant staff changes before the meeting with less than a full description of the plan. In addition, there seemed to be a lack of understanding among some members asking the questions that the new staffing model was not up for a vote of the congregation but was a Session-level decision.

At the same time, it was acknowledged that the meeting once again raised the question of the most effective way to communicate with the congregation. The persistence of the questions seemed to indicate that some people did not feel heard and used the Annual Meeting to ask questions that were not appropriate for that public forum.

The Staff in particular noted the pain they felt as a result of the experience, and what they saw as lack of awareness about what goes on behind the scenes in preparation for worship each week, and the joy that they experience in their jobs because of Rob' ability to bring out the best in each of them. One staff member described the experience as "heart-wrenching." Both Ryan and Annanda spoke deeply as to what the experience looked like to them as relative newcomers to the congregation, how hurtful it was, and how although it was focused on Rob's role in the congregation, it was in fact a statement that Session had not done its job fully and faithfully.

Session commitments in response to the Annual Meeting included a continuing obligation for Session members to welcome people in and talk to people in the congregation, to bring love to every interaction, to pay attention to the movement of the Spirit, and to keep our eyes on the future in a way that does not personalize issues or pit people against each other. In response

to specific questions that were raised about the terms of Rob's call, Staff Relations agreed to draft a letter to the congregation providing more detail as to questions that were not able to be fully answered at the meeting.

- Evelyn Wong reported that the Nominating Committee had one more slot to fill.
- Evan Hughes was elected Clerk pro tem until Session meets again in March.
- Stated Supply Associate Pastor Agreement – Session agreed to review the form of Agreement for the Stated Supply Associate Pastor and vote to approve it electronically given the lateness of the hour. The format is largely prescribed by Presbytery.
- Dates for a Session retreat were discussed and will be followed up via email.
- Rob reported that Worship Committee meets on Tuesday and will be setting the worship schedule through June. He reported that problems with the bathrooms after the Wednesday night meals had been addressed. Sarah Chivington-Buck is candidating this Sunday at a church in Alva, Oklahoma that welcomes diversity.

M/S/C to adjourn at 9:45 p.m. Karen Wentzel led us in the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Wentzel

**Minutes for Stated Session Meeting  
Wednesday, March 15, 2017 (7:15-9:30 pm)  
Classroom 1**

The meeting was called to order by Rob Martin, Moderator at 7:15. Rob offered the opening reflection from words by a pastor in Boston, and then led us in an opening prayer by Ted Loder, a Methodist pastor and poet. A quorum was present.

Present: Scott Brenneman, Greer Ellison, Melissa Epps, Evan Hughes, Paul Jones, Rick Keller, Pat Kinney, Susan Phinney-Silver, Joy Sleizer, Standley Scott (Scotty)

Staff: Annanda Barclay; Ryan Larkin, Kathy Merkle-Raymond; Rob Martin

Excused: David Leith, Evelyn Wong

The agenda was approved.

Rob proposed that we accept Karen Wentzel's offer to be temporary clerk through our June meeting, and that Session accept this offer and give her voice, but not a vote, in Session meetings for this period. This was unanimously approved.

**CLERK'S REPORT** – Rob Martin

- Communion was served to 86 people on March 5, 2017.
- A thank you letter was received from the Kara Foundation for a gift that was a memorial to Joan Roy's brother.
- A special thank you letter was received from Paris Geiken of Ashland, Oregon to express appreciation for what First Pres is doing for her mother, Martha Clayton, who attends 10:30 Worship regularly, usually brought by Paris's brother Brooks Geiken.
- A thank you letter was received from Rob Fohr of the PC(USA) staff in appreciation of First Pres hosting the February 15, 2017 meeting, in our Chapel, of the PC(USA) Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI).

**CONSENT CALENDAR** - unanimously approved

- Minutes of the February 15, 2017 meeting were accepted with minor corrections noted.
- Ministry Reports were accepted from Social Justice and Finance.

## **ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Response(s) to Issues Raised at the Annual Meeting (Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> as part of 10:30 Worship) – Scott B. and Kathy M-R.**

- Response to email from Susan Chamberlain and co-signers. Susan Phinney-Silver, with input from members of Session, sent a response to the co-signers of this email. The response acknowledged receipt and let them know that Session will be discussing their concerns.
- Letter Clarifying Terms of Call for Rob. Staff Relations produced a letter of clarification, which was approved by unanimous email vote by Session and sent out to the congregation via email or postal mail.
- Kathy M-R. Outreach to Speakers / Letter-Signers. Kathy said she had talked to a number of those who had spoken at the Annual Meeting and/or signed Susan's letter. Kathy summarized what she had heard as a result of her in-person conversations or phone calls with these members of the congregation.
- Further Responses? Actions? We discussed what Kathy told us and other issues that we have been or are aware of. We will discuss further at the Session Retreat on Saturday, March 25. Among items raised in our discussion were (1) "open mic" time for members at the beginning of Session meetings; (2) noting that the new staffing plan (launched in 2012) has not increased membership/finances and is not self-supporting; (3) future of the Legacy Fund and guidelines for drawdowns; (4) tactical errors in preparing for and conducting the Annual Meeting, including a lack of information distributed in advance; (5) Annual Report and format for such – and Budget Plan – in advance of the Annual Meeting; (6) disappointment that the good news of Annanda's planned new associate/co-pastor role with Rob and the path to reduced draws on the Legacy Fund had been lost amidst the expressions of concern that had been planned by some members; (7) staff size and staffing roles; (8) doing a special report in advance of the special congregational meeting (copies of a nice example, done by Valley Presbyterian in Portola Valley, were handed out by Rob); (9) ways of obtaining representative views of a wide spectrum of members, such as a more current survey perhaps, and/or making offers for meetings with Session members; and (10) the need for healing of relationships within the congregation and ways to facilitate this, perhaps through both individual meetings and small/intentional group meetings, and, later or if needed, perhaps, some outside assistance.
- Rob said that he now views the combining of Annual Meeting and 10:30 Worship as a mistake, and he urged that individuals or groups meet with him when he is considered the source of some problem. Annanda suggested that Staff Relations be a part of such meetings. The discussion ended with our noting that continued discussion and possible action can take place at the March 25<sup>th</sup> Session Retreat as well as at the regular meeting in April.

### **Finance Ministry – Susan P.**

- Request to elect Lee Merkle-Raymond as Treasurer – This was unanimously approved, including approval of Lee having a non-voting voice at Session meetings when and as she chooses to be present. We thanked Susan and applauded her work in acting as Treasurer as well as Elder for the Finance Ministry. It was noted that Lee's help will enable Susan to sustain her fine work as Chair of the Finance Ministry.
- Discussion of Legacy Fund Draw policy – Noting that year to year decisions on the amount of the draw from the Legacy Fund have been made each year since the new staffing plan and budget were adopted in 2012, we discussed the possible return to a 5% draw policy and steps toward that target or some other target. This was a discussion item and will be taken up again at the April meeting as an action item. A policy will be needed at least by the time of the June-July transition to the new staffing arrangement, which will be Rob and Annanda both at three-quarter-time, and no full-time pastor for Children, Youth, Young Adults.

- Discussion on whether to pursue/educate the congregation about contributing to the Legacy Fund – This was covered by brief discussion, and no action was taken or definitely planned. As part of stewardship we could be sure to always call attention to the Legacy Fund as something that could be made a part of an estate, sometimes as simply as designating the Legacy Fund of First Pres as a beneficiary on IRA forms, etc.

#### **Staff Relations – Scott B.**

- Lines / Ways of communicating with the congregation – We discussed ways of surveying and otherwise seeking and receiving more input from the congregation and communicating to the congregation. Ideas and topics included these and others: a “question of the week” using something like Survey Monkey; how would survey questions be vetted; how to get representative samples of opinion; noting that the group email list consists of 153 email addresses; sidebar mailing group; use of 9:30 AM time slot and doing more than one thing in this time slot; Session members attending and speaking at First Pres group meetings such as the Young Adults monthly meetings; the benefits of talking in person; small-group idea exchanges; and being “adaptive” by trying things out and feeling free to drop or revise based on experience.
- Update on Stated Supply Associate Agreement – Rob and Annanda expect progress and approval via the Presbytery’s Committee on Ministry, but it may not be as fast as desired; nevertheless, no change in our transition date planned for June 1 so far.
- Employee Handbook Update Process – Scott reported that this is getting underway shortly, with review and revision as appropriate after some years since last done. Karen Wentzel, an employment law attorney, will be helping once her Session clerking duties ease up. Scott said that job descriptions will also be coming. Rob added that staff members will have an off-site retreat which will result in input on tasks and division of workload and hours.

#### **Social Justice Ministry – Pat K. and Joy S.**

- Retreat Update – Pat called attention to her SJM report telling of the retreat held on Saturday, March 4, in the Lounge, and she told us that the priorities assigned by committee members were First “Sanctuary and Solidarity with People at Risk,” then Second “Homelessness and Hunger,” and Third “Environment” – these were assigned in counting and analyzing the “first-second-third” priorities assigned by members on a chart that was put together by the group toward the end of the retreat. She asked if we could spend more time discussing this at next week’s Session retreat, and Rob asked her to send that in as an agenda item for the retreat. Pat also said that the Budget Allocation Subcommittee was updating the Social Justice Ministry Statement to reflect the results of the retreat. This will be sent to Session after the SJM Committee meets on Sunday, March 19. And, Pat also mentioned that, on April 23, Cool Planet will be helping to organize, with Ryan as the leader for worship that Sunday, an Earth Day Sunday 10:30 Worship and also that day a “5<sup>th</sup> Sunday” event after 10:30 Worship. This “5<sup>th</sup> Sunday on the 4<sup>th</sup>” event will be a “Cool Cuisine” demonstration with Laura Stec as our guest speaker and cooking instructor. Finally, Pat told us that the first allocation of 2017 funds by SJM was to be the \$3,000, as in previous years, for YCS (Youth Community Services) pending approval at the SJM Committee meeting this Sunday, March 19.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Update – Joy summarized the letter she had received from “Rise Against Hunger” – which is the new name of “Stop Hunger Now” with whom we did the January 29 “5<sup>th</sup> Sunday” event where we packed 10,000 meals for distribution to refugees or others in need overseas. The letter tells of ours being among some 250,000 or more meals shipped and distributed to refugees from the civil war in Syria.
- Hotel de Zink Update – Joy told us that plans are already underway for the hosting of Hotel de Zink, as usual, in July this year in Fellowship Hall. The shower bus, which was put into action last summer, will again be parked between the youth house and the kitchen, and will again be

here on the Tuesdays and Fridays during July, providing shower and laundry facilities for our overnight guests. Joy told us that she now has some assistance in organizing this July's Hotel de Zink: Kathy Barton will help with the organizing.

### **Worship & Music Ministry – Greer E.**

- Request to serve Communion on Maundy Thursday – This was approved unanimously, as was a contingency plan to serve communion at the Santa Clara County Jail during Holy Week if we are asked to do so again this year.
- Liturgist Process – The Worship and Music Ministry (WMM) is using a new sign-up method to recruit liturgists for 10:30 Worship this year and it is working well so far.
- Taize Services during Lent – These services are underway on Wednesdays at 6pm, as of Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, and Greer urged Session members to attend these beautiful meditative half-hour worship services with traditional Taize chants accompanied by Lara Garner on the harp.
- Holy Week Schedule – Rob handed out a schedule of worship services and events for Holy Week, noting that the Taize worship (on Wednesdays during Lent, per above) is not part of the schedule as there will be a Maundy Thursday communion service that week instead.

### **Staff Reflections**

- **Ryan Larkin (Interim Director Children/Youth/Family)** – Ryan reported that he has been preparing his groups for the new situation that will exist after he leaves and we transition to not having a full-time CYC (Children, Youth and Young Adults) pastor. He spoke of having five teams to rotate quarterly leadership, planning and implementation of CYC education and other activity. For our future ministry to children, he sees a need for volunteers to back up Courtney in her work teaching on Sundays at the 10:30 hour. For the youth, he could use some guidance and direction as he proceeds in suggesting and encouraging these young people toward some peer leadership such as, perhaps, a Youth Council that could formulate ideas and take initiatives to invite staff and others to teach and shepherd them, as well as to provide rides and other services to them. Kathy will help coordinate with the Family Covenant Group, and there might be needs for funds for youth events. Among the youth, there have been three to five, or maybe eight, attending events. Pat asked about a Mission Trip, and Ryan and Kathy told of hearing that plans/hopes for summer jobs seem to be suggesting that no Mission Trip is going to work out for this summer – perhaps there will be some day trips or events on weekends as one-on-one (or more) plans get made and invitations extended. These ideas are what is emerging in contacts with parents. Perhaps, “service days” may substitute for the trip this summer. On the Young Adult Ministry, Ryan told us that he has talked with the “younger adults” – a group that was only three at the most recent event but has been up to eight earlier – about his working with them on ideas for future activities if they choose to continue to meet as a community outside of 10:30 Worship. Rob said that he and Annanda, as co-pastors, would be coordinating this.
- **Kathy Merkle-Raymond (Communal Care)** – Kathy told of special needs of some in our congregation, and announced that this coming Sunday, March 19, right after 10:30 Worship, we will bid farewell to longtime member Sandra Hopkins, who is moving to be near her daughter and family in Pennsylvania. Sandra has served several times on Session and has been a leader in care of Westminster House. Kathy reported that she, together with Scotty, had attended Steven Care Ministry training at Stone Church, as Scotty knew of this training and its value in attending to special needs of members of church communities.
- **Annanda Barclay (Pastoral Intern)** – Annanda told us that on March 19 she will not be with us at 10:30 Worship as she will be a leader at a More Light Presbyterians event across the Bay. Also, she will be preaching at Trinity Presbyterian in San Jose on March 19. She is leading Taize on Wednesdays and using an identical “bulletin” for all of Lent: “Taize Service, Lent

2017” Annanda expressed thanks for her being able to go to Louisville to preside at the More Light meeting that Thursday-Saturday, and told of the body cold that limited her upon her return the next week, Feb26-March2, although she had managed to soldier on through. Rob said that he wanted Annanda to really rest on her days off, and that she would be on email-answering silence after 5pm on Thursdays to respect her Saturday and Monday days of rest. Finally, Rob joined Annanda in describing the event that will be held this coming Monday evening, March 20, here in our Sanctuary. The event is the second in the “Shifts Happen” lecture series of the San Francisco Theological Seminary’s Center for Innovation in Ministry. In this one, Annanda will be a member of the three-person speaker panel with two very distinguished activist preachers: the Rev. Jane Spahr and the Rev. J. Alfred Smith, Jr.

- **Rob Martin (Senior Pastor and Head of Staff)** – Rob began his report by telling us about the SAFE Church Practice that members of Session must be refreshed on every three years. It now has an on-line training session. There is an update of the Presbytery’s SAFE document that we must re-adopt at the next regular Session meeting. He announced that First Pres is to be the host church for the September meeting of the Presbytery of San Jose, and he asked for volunteers to be our commissioners to the next Presbytery meeting in about two weeks, Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> of April. [See below, under Reminders.]
- Rob told us that he has been talking to people about the Annual Meeting, and, given that we have not yet received responses to Scott’s letter, Rob suggests that we try to get some interactive group discussions going, but not until after we have talked more and had our retreat.

Rob reminded us that we can use email for voting on urgent items only when there are no questions or discussion in email messages expressing a vote. If member of Session asks a question, then we must meet in person in special session to complete the vote. Rick reminded us that volunteers are needed for Sunday school and for expanding our too-small sound and video team. Rob suggested that we do signups as is now being done by the Worship and Music Committee to line up liturgists: announce in Worship and have a person in Narthex to signup volunteers.

Ryan led us in a closing prayer, after the meeting had been adjourned, upon being moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Evan Hughes (as volunteer clerk for this meeting)

#### **REMINDERS**

- Communion Servers for April 2 (Please remember to clean up)
- **Next Session Meeting:** Retreat on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at First Pres Chapel (9 am-3 pm)
- Presbytery Meeting Reps for Saturday, April 1, 9a.m. at First Presbyterian in Mountain View.

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### **Finance Ministry Report to Congregation March 27, 2017**

This Finance Ministry report covers results from our first 2 months of 2017, and sets forth financial discussions being undertaken by Session in April. Amongst the topics included in this report are:

- Announcement of and welcome to Lee Merkle-Raymond to join Finance Ministry, who was appointed by Session to be Treasurer to work in partnership with me as Finance Elder (thanks be to God!);
- Our financial position for the first 2 months of 2017 (as of end of February); and
- Summary of discussions underway with Session regarding our Legacy Fund Spending Policy.

## Finance Chair and Treasurer Roles

During the past seven to eight years, the role of Treasurer and Finance Elder have been held by one individual, but prior to that they were separate roles within our Finance Ministry. The Finance Elder/Chair is an ordained Session member and is responsible for overall financial oversight and planning (e.g. budgeting and reporting to Session and the congregation, Legacy Fund management with Investment Committee, etc.). The Treasurer role is not a member of Session, and is responsible for day-to-day financial management (e.g. check signing, bank reconciliations, documentation, etc.).

I have been considering for some time whether it might be possible to split these roles as they were in years past, to make the finance role(s) more sustainable from a time perspective as a volunteer position for working individuals like me.

I am pleased to report that Lee Merkle-Raymond has recently stepped forward, and Session voted to appoint Lee to take on the Treasurer role starting in April, in partnership with me (Susan) as Finance Ministry Chair/Elder. Lee is a longtime church member with extensive banking expertise, with past experience in Finance Ministry roles in earlier years, and she performed the church Audit (with Helene Butler) for the year 2015 so she knows the church's financial systems well. Lee and I will work together to divide the finance roles appropriately. I believe this will lead to making these Finance Ministry volunteer positions more realistically sustainable over time.

## Financial Position as of end-February

For the first two months of 2017, our operating deficit is \$10K ahead of (i.e. smaller than) budget, which is good news ☺, although most of the differences are just due to timing at this early point in the year. Below is a summary as of 2/28/17. Please email me with any questions ([phinneysilver@sbcglobal.net](mailto:phinneysilver@sbcglobal.net)). I am happy to send the more detailed reports (which Session reviews) to anyone in the congregation who is interested.

	<b>Jan-Feb Actual (2 mos.)</b>	<b>Jan-Feb Budget (2 mos.)</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>INCOME</b>				
Pledges and donations	\$60,625	\$73,819	\$(13,194)	Does not include \$25K pledge receipts first week March - now on track with budget.
Facility usage	\$45,678	\$47,599	\$(1,921)	Facility rentals are cyclical/episodic.
Other income	\$15,176	\$ 2,750	+\$12,426	Due to a one-time matched donation.
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$121,479</b>	<b>\$124,168</b>	<b>\$(2,689)</b>	Slightly behind budget, but with catch-up during first week March as noted above.
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Staffing	\$85,372	\$86,911	\$(1,539)	
Facilities Ministry	\$19,859	\$28,852	\$(8,993)	No major projects yet in 2017 as of February.
Church Giving and Social Justice	\$2,944	\$6,917	\$(3,973)	Due to timing of contributions.
All Other Ministries	\$2,988	\$7,067	\$(4,079)	Also due to timing, early in year.
Admin and Other	\$11,630	\$6,341	\$5,289	Includes Per Capita payment of \$7,848.
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$122,793</b>	<b>\$136,088</b>	<b>\$(13,295)</b>	

<b>NET INCOME for January-February</b>	<b>\$(1,314)</b>	<b>\$(11,920)</b>	<b>+\$10,606</b>	Operating deficit is \$10K ahead, but mostly due to timing at early point in the year.
<b>LEGACY DRAW January-February</b>	\$-	\$17,302	\$(17,302)	

**Legacy Fund Status and Spending Policy**

Prior to 2012, Session had adopted/maintained the following Legacy Fund Spending Policy: “The Council [Session] expects and plans to take an annual draw from the long-term investment funds [the Legacy Fund]. The draw will generally be 5% annually, based on average asset value of the long-term investments [Legacy Fund] over the preceding 12 quarters.” Compared to other nonprofits, this Spending Policy was conservative – a 5% level would typically be used for endowments that will receive no replenishments or infusions of principal in the future. Our church’s Legacy Fund in contrast does actually receive episodic (although very infrequent) infusions of capital (i.e. principal).

This spending policy has been waived each year for the past five years in order to pursue increases in spending, especially within the staffing and facilities (Westminster House) areas. For reference, our Legacy Fund balance currently stands at about \$695K, and the 2017 budgeted Legacy Draw is \$103,812, which is 13.7% of the trailing 12-quarter Legacy Fund balance.

At this pivot point in our church’s evolution, Session will be discussing at its April meeting and establishing forward policies for spending and drawdown of our church’s Legacy Fund. Based on preliminary Session discussions, the goal of Session is to reduce the maximum annual Legacy Fund Draws to levels that can be sustain our Legacy Fund and church over the long term. The previous goal of 5% may not be realistic in the immediate term and, as noted above, may be overly conservative. Session will be discussing in April potential options, such as establishing an 8-10% maximum in the coming year, which in itself would require some major changes in income and/or expense reductions. Session will also be discussing, as part of the Legacy Fund Spending Policy, how to approach funding certain deferred Facilities maintenance and repairs on our main church campus (through a combination of rental and other operating income, and potential Capital Campaign for required major repairs). Session will also be discussing re-invigoration of the Legacy Circle which represents congregation members who are committed to the long-term sustainability of our church’s Legacy Fund.

By discussing the re-establishment of a sustainable Legacy Fund Spending Policy, the goal of Finance Ministry is to provide for the ministries of this next phase in our church’s evolution, while also stewarding the resources that will ensure our church’s financial health and stability over the longer term.

Thanks be to God for our financial abundance and the gifts with which we have been entrusted.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Phinney Silver, Elder, Finance Ministry*

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**Understanding Sanctuary and Immigration Issues**

Members of our Social Justice Ministry have been attending various events around Santa Clara County to get a better understanding of immigration and sanctuary issues at the national, county, and municipal levels. Here’s a brief summary of what they’ve learned:

**The Wall between US and Mexico, and the national scene**

- The government is currently taking bids from companies to build the wall. US taxpayers will pay for it.

- Categories of people at risk for deportation have been expanded. Nationally, ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) can detain:
  - Any person guilty of a crime, including a misdemeanor
  - Any person charged with a crime (no need to have been proven guilty)
  - Any person who has entered the US illegally

### **The Ban on Travel from the Middle East (version 2.0)**

- The government's new ban restricts travel from six Muslim countries for 90 days (Iraq has been removed from the list).
- People with green cards are okay to travel (although immigration attorney Richard Hobbs noted that green cards cost \$535, plus a \$1,200 fee to "adjust status," plus a \$2,000 medical exam, which puts green cards out of reach of low income immigrants.)
- SB 31 The California Religious Freedom Act stops the government from creating a registry based on religion in California.

### **The Situation in Santa Clara County**

The new administration's immigration policies have generated much fear in immigrant communities. According to Maria Marroquin of the Day Worker Center of Mountain View, people are leaving their homes only when necessary for work or school. Requests for food stamps and medical assistance have decreased in recent weeks. And parents are preparing plans for guardianship of children in the event that the parents are taken off the street and deported. This has happened in San Francisco, but not yet in Santa Clara County.

### **The Situation in Palo Alto**

A group from the League of Women Voters interviewed former Police Chief Dennis Burns before he retired at the end of 2016. He stated that it has been Palo Alto's policy not to support ICE, because they want people to feel safe talking to police officers. The exception is if ICE has a valid federal warrant for a specific person, convicted or charged with a serious or violent felony. These are basically the standards set out in the 2013 CA Trust Act.

For a detailed report, please visit the Social Justice page on the First Pres website:

<http://fprespa.org/socialjustice/>

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**



### **People's Climate March - San Jose, CA**

**April 29, 2017 • 10:00 AM**

**San Jose City Hall • 200 E. Santa Clara Street, San Jose, CA 95113**

*Marchers will convene at San Jose City Hall at 10 am and walk 0.7 miles to Cesar Chavez Plaza.*

Just before the 100th day of the new administration, on Saturday, April 29th, the People's Climate Movement is coming together in marches across the US to protest this administration's climate agenda and demand progress in protecting our environment and our future.

We'll be wearing the stoles that many of you signed last week, carrying signs and our new banner!

\*\*If you would like to attend the march with others from First Pres, contact Gail Thompson at [gailt1225@earthlink.net](mailto:gailt1225@earthlink.net) for information about transportation.

## The Soon-To-Be Rev. Sarah Chivington-Buck Preaching on Sunday, May 7th

Our former Intern, Sarah Chivington-Buck, will be leading us in worship at the 10:30 Service on Sunday, May 7th.

Sarah will be graduating from San Francisco Theological Seminary on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, in preparation for her new pastoral call to the First Presbyterian Church of Alva, Oklahoma. Sarah was selected by the Alva search committee out of a large pool of candidates and she will preach her candidacy sermon this Sunday (April 30th) before the congregation.

The city of Alva was established in 1893 as a land office for the Cherokee Outlet land run, the largest of the land rushes that settled western and central Oklahoma. The site was chosen for its location on the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway, and was likely named for a railroad attorney, Alva Adams, who had become governor of Colorado. Today, Alva has about 5,500 citizens and is home to Northwestern Oklahoma State University. It also is home to one of the country's largest Presbyterian Church manses (be sure to ask Sarah about this little-known fact).

Please plan on being present for this special occasion as we celebrate and bless Sarah in her new call to ordained ministry!

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## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING---SUNDAY, APRIL 30**

The Session of First Presbyterian Church Palo Alto has called for a congregational meeting to be held immediately following 10:30am worship on April 30. The purpose of this meeting will be to:

- Establish an Associate Pastor position at First Presbyterian Church Palo Alto
- Call Annanda Barclay to that position as Designated Associate Pastor
- Approve Pastoral Terms of Call effective June 15

This meeting is being called sooner than expected so that we can adhere to the schedule the Committee on Ministry has laid out for us---and so that our actions can be affirmed at the June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of San Jose Presbytery.

