

# ANNUAL MEETING

of the Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, held on Sunday, February 3, 2019  
at 11:45 AM at the church, 1620 East 46th Street, Minneapolis, MN.

## AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
  1. Notice of meeting properly called
  2. Quorum - 20% of active members
  3. Prayer
  4. Approval of minutes for 2017 congregational meeting
  
- II. REFLECTING ON 2018  
*(NOTE: Written reports are attached. This time is set aside for Congregational reflection on the work of God within and among us in 2018.)*
  1. Conversation:
    - a. *What did I love?*
    - b. *What was difficult?*
    - c. *What do I want to: stop doing? Keep doing? Try doing?*
    - d. *What do I bring into this next year?*
  2. Treasurer Report
  3. Gratitude and Thanks: *Whom do I want to thank?*
  
- III. DISCUSSION & DISCERNMENT: Ham & Cherry Pie Dinner
  
- IV. ANNUAL BUSINESS
  1. Nominating Committee:
    - a. Dismissal of 2018 Nominating Committee with thanks
    - b. Nomination of 2019 Nominating Committee
  2. Questions and Comments about 2019 Budget
  3. Consideration of 2019 Terms of Call for Pastor – Head of Staff
  
- V. CLOSING
  1. Sung Blessing: *Blest Be the Tie that Binds*
  2. Closing Prayer

*1 Blest be the tie that binds  
our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds  
is like to that above.*

*2 Before our Father's throne  
we pour our ardent prayers;  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
our comforts and our cares.*

*3 We share our mutual woes,  
our mutual burdens bear,  
and often for each other flows  
the sympathizing tear.*

*4 When we are called to part,  
it gives us inward pain;  
but we shall still be joined in heart,  
and hope to meet again.*

*5 This glorious hope revives  
our courage by the way;  
while each in expectation lives  
and waits to see the day.*

*6 From sorrow, toil, and pain,  
and sin, we shall be free;  
and perfect love and friendship reign  
through all eternity*

## REPORTS

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# REPORT OF JANUARY 2018 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING LNPC

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 04, 2018

**I. CALL TO ORDER;** Meeting called to order at 12:03 am.

Lisa Phillips Johnson served as Clerk.

It was determined that the meeting was properly called, and a quorum was declared.

Prayer was offered by Pastor Root.

Minutes of the Congregational Meeting of 1/17/2017 were approved as presented.

**II. REFLECTIONS** from our experiences in 2017:

## **What have you loved?**

- Supporting Marty; Caring for him
- Tithing to others
- Retreats
- Parent's night out
- Waffles and worship
- Gary et. al. shampooing carpets
- All the babies
- Singing Carols
- Dating Game
- Interns
- Easter egg hunt
- Prayer for the Nation
- Prayer activities and focus
- Celebrate Jeanne's work and Erin's arrival
- Pentecost tithes
- Coffee and Donuts
- Playing in the nursery
- Saturday Services

## **What has been difficult/challenging/disappointing?**

- Saying goodbye to Jeanne
- Saying goodbye to Marty
- Global politics
- Managing Building Care with increased use
- Sabbatical perspective
- Quorum. at Session

## **What do we want to keep/try?**

- Youth leaders
- Kids in leadership and prayer
- Pentecost "open door community."

## **What do we want to stop?**

- Norm and Joyce as primary coffee hour prep and clean up staff
- Sue needs replacement as Treasurer

## Who do we want to thank?

- Gary for cleaning and welcoming to all
- Interns for building relationships with kids and church community
- Ham and Cherry Pie dinner
- Taco Tuesday; Lindsay and Bette's family supporting over time
- Lisa and Dennis as Clerk
- Joyce and Norm; coffee time
- Norm's dedication to Prayer for Nation
- Sue and Butch taking Eva to Church
- Joyce able to put Lisa L cat to sleep
- Eva in bible study with Lisa L
- Erin and refreshing new music
- Lisa L attention to congregation
- Sue, Bill and others on Parent's nite out
- Sue H for leading grant proposal
- 25<sup>th</sup> Membership Anniversary; Butch, Norm and Terry
- Welcoming and fun congregation to bring kids to
- Connections coffee group
- Presbyterian Women
- Kara and her leadership
- Amy L willingness to help
- lady' crew for events (Diane et al)

## III. SABBATICAL CONVERSATION

A handout was provided at meeting; overview of general plans and grant support (\$49000+) for Kara's sabbatical for 3 months (Aug 5-Nov 3), with congregational retreat Nov 9-11 planned at Clearwater Forest.

## IV. CONVERSATIONAL BLASTS

Sabbatical, Tithing, Capital Campaign Blasts; break-out sessions of your choice to discuss topics of focus for 2018 to further explore topics.

## V. NEW BUSINESS

Dismissal of 2017 Nominating Committee with thanks: Amy Leafblad, Sue Hensel, Jen Rainey?

2018 Nominating Committee: Brian Rainey, Linda Leicht and Lisa Phillips Johnson

Questions on Budget: none

Pastor **2018 Terms of Call** approved as presented: MSP the terms later amended for pension per clarification by Presbytery (attached).

CLOSING HYMN, Blest Be the Ties that Bind

CLOSING WITH PRAYER

MEETING OF CONGREGATION ADJOURNED AT 1:57PM

Respectfully submitted:

Lisa Phillips Johnson, Clerk

## LAKE NOKOMIS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STATISTICAL REPORT 2018

### PASTORAL RITES

#### Baptisms

Adult	0
Child	2
Weddings	0
Funerals	1

Communion was served at least once each month.

### MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS FOR DENOMINATIONAL REPORTING PURPOSES

Number of members on the active role as of January 1, 2018: **92**

#### Additions

By Profession of Reaffirmation of Faith	0
By Letter of Transfer	1
Reinstated	0

#### Losses

Deceased	0
Transferred	2
Inactive Roll	0
Removed by Session	0

Total Active Members as of January 1, 2019: **91**

Membership is one way in which we commit to being the body of Christ for one another. This year we shared worship and community with Central Fellowship and others who are not connected in formal church membership, but nevertheless are part of the Body of Christ alongside us.

## SESSION

The session met in 12 regular meetings. Session also met in a two-day retreat, January 5-6, 2018. Session membership is as outlined below; the ethnicity and age of elders serving on session is representative of the overall congregational body.

In 2018, the session was composed of six ruling elders:

Class of 2018: Amy Leafblad, Bill Fischer

Class of 2019: Joyce Tesarek, Diane Hansen

Class of 2020: Brian Rainey, Sue Goodspeed

The session was moderated by teaching elder Rev. Kara Root and Lisa Larges during Kara's sabbatical.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

There was 1 congregational meeting; the annual meeting February 4, 2018; minutes by Lisa P Johnson. The elder class of 2020 was ordained/ installed on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

## Other Information of Note

Kara Root was on sabbatical leave from August 1 to October 31, 2018. Session was moderated by Associate Pastor, Lisa Larges, in her absence. Treasurer was Sue Goodspeed and clerk was Lisa Phillips Johnson.



Respectfully Submitted,  
Lisa Phillips Johnson, Clerk

## PASTOR'S REPORT

Dear LNPC,

In September we started a year-long series on Grace – God's own being, shared with us, aka, the abundance of God's Yes to us. Our worship team retreated during the summer to brainstorm how to experience this more deeply, and it's been a great focus to shape our worship and life together this year. It's through this lens that I want to reflect on 2018, and some of the countless ways I experienced God's grace in our life together.



Supporting Katie and Shannon in their internships – specifically supervising Katie (Lisa supervised Shannon) was a joy. I loved watching her learn and grow through her time with us. She greatly impacted our young people, strengthening both their faith and their relationship with the adults in our congregation. And we sent them all to camp together! Magical. Last summer we welcomed Katie into membership, and sent her off to seminary. Being part of others' journey is such a gift, and being impacted by God through others is an extraordinary thing.

This year we held Prayer for the Nation every Friday – if I couldn't do it, Lisa or Sue led, and Dennis led for three months while I was away on Sabbatical. Norm is an anchor in these times. We hold that space of prayer on behalf of the larger whole – our community and our country. This is a meaningful touchstone for others on Facebook who are grateful for our regular practice. And did you know that the format we designed was published as a Lenten practice, and used by many churches in the US and even internationally this past Lent? Grace contagious!

I experienced grace when I got to spread the life of LNPC beyond us. A highlight was speaking in Ely at a presbytery event, helping other congregations reflect on what their gifts and calling are, instead of focusing on fear or scarcity. Another was doing spiritual direction and leading workshops at the National Youth Worker's Convention. Every year I support tired youth pastors and church leaders, and lead workshops that encourage them to try Sabbath, journaling, and new ways of praying. Our life together – specifically, your vulnerability and shared faith, empowerment of children, creativity in worship, and learning and seeking to practice Sabbath – are a blessing far beyond this community.

I've loved that we've begun chanting Psalms, connecting ourselves to this way of praying Scripture practiced by Christians for centuries. I loved the retreat and all the fun we had at Clearwater Forest. I love the glass mosaic window we're working on, and watching it come to life through the creativity and activity of many hands (big and small!). I loved the ways the kids have led and continue to redefine their roles with us as they grow and change.

I love working with Lisa and with Erin, and the gorgeous way our gifts mingle and strengthen each other's. I'm grateful for Krysta and Brittany, and their consistent and trustworthy sustaining of our administration and finances. I'm thankful for Lisa's joyful and steady leadership during sabbatical, and for her own discernment about her call and faithfulness to respond, moving at the end of 2018 from

Associate Pastor, to Parish Associate. There is such grace in honesty and openness with each other, and living into joy and calling together.

This year had growing pains and challenges with kids that you've weathered so well. We temporarily had a children's teacher in Lizabeth Bougie who led our kids through sabbatical time, while shaping a teaching model she can share with other congregations. But we've struggled with how to meet the needs of our changing group – now we've got more older kids and younger kids, with just a small handful in the middle (as was reflected on Christmas eve!), and no interns or other adult leadership. But instead of wallowing in scarcity, we turned to our abundance, and did several intergenerational Sunday school experiences at the end of the year – learning, praying and playing together. We decorated the sanctuary for Advent, baked cookies, and began the New Year creating a memorable Epiphany play. The kids learn so much alongside adults, and adults remember deep truths from learning alongside them. We are a gift to each other. We will continue our way through this a week at a time, and with great rejoicing we welcome Katie back as our Youth Leader starting in February!

Parents' et al Nights Out were a blast – both for the adults gathering for games or meals, and for the little ones building relationships and trust with our older kids and adults. Again, a gift to each other! Coffee and Donuts and PW were filled with good conversation and plenty of laughter. While we've enjoyed our times together, I loved watching the gratitude and grace with which Barb, Georgia and Rosie decided it was time to retire PW. Embracing life in the changing seasons, the welcoming and the releasing, are ways of living in grace.

Some years ago we said aloud that we wanted to take less money out of Endowment/savings each year, *and we have*. The trajectory since 2010 is: \$40,000, \$40,000, \$30,000, \$30,000, \$10,000, \$10,000, \$8,000, \$6,000, and for 2018: \$4,000. We are now taking out less every year, and by our practice of tithing has made generosity, and blessing other expressions of God's ministry in our community, central to our own mission and calling. The economics of it are illogical and challenging - but we keep remembering on purpose that this is not our church, it is God's, and we are called to be faithful stewards of the ministry God is doing in and through us (just like those who gave to the future of the congregation were years ago). We believe "money follows mission" and not the other way around, and it was powerful hearing the impact our sharing has beyond our community from some of our partners. We continue to seek to be obedient to God's direction, and God continues to sustain us. We exist only by God's grace, and all that we do is for the purpose of sharing in and spreading that grace.

At the beginning of 2018 session went through an intensive discernment process to seek God's direction about our tithing practice. We came out clear that two courses were equally needed - both continued tithing with expanding relationships, and pursuing a capital campaign to care for the building and plan intentionally for the future of our congregation. After talking with two architects and a financial consultant, the questions have evolved and broadened as we've taken a step back to some big picture work. We are now asking, *What is our purpose as a congregation in the coming decade? Who are we meant to be and how are we called to minister in a changing church and world? How are we called to collaborate with other congregations? What is the best use of our space? How can we most faithfully use our resources (building, people, money, gifts and talents, etc.) to serve God and the world?*

We're in an exciting (and sometimes unnerving!) place of seeking direction for the future, and you've got a grounded and strong session at the helm. In fact, it feels like as a congregation, we are in a very healthy place as we stand on the threshold of our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary (in three years!), with new questions and the task of "futuring" for a church - and a Church - that is so radically changing. 2019 will be significant, as we continue exploring what it means to live into our future.

My own sabbatical experience was a life highlight. Truly. It feels like it poured concrete into the foundation of our family. We got to live into the transition from childhood to adolescence with very intensive, sustained time together (and all the joy and discomfort that comes with that!) And the sabbatical gave me space to pay attention to the world in ways I long to – to take in experiences and process them, to simplify and be present to the amazing things right in front of me. The challenges of travel in other cultures heightened my awareness of the gift of living, and of God's pervasive presence in the world. I found deep rest – not the kind you get from getting more sleep, the kind you get from unclenching your mind. The time I spent at the monastery in silence was profoundly rich and impactful. And it was a joy to return from sabbatical to a congregation that feels healthy, connected and vibrant, even in the midst of transition and questions. I loved hearing stories of your own heart-singing sabbatical time, and hearing words and sentences come from small people who couldn't talk when I left, or watching them walk and run when I'd last seen them crawl! What a gift it all is, and also the grant that helped make all these experiences possible! (Grace!)

I enter into 2019 with a shifting sense of call, both in our community and in myself. I am paying attention to the Holy Spirit's leading, and discerning how to best support the session as they do the good work of guiding our congregation into a new chapter, because it is abundantly clear to me we are entering a new chapter. What will that mean for us? I'm excited to find out. The congregation has recognized part of my role in our life together is (has always been) in an outreach capacity – speaking, writing and sharing the things we learn together for the benefit of the wider Church and beyond. It's clear that in 2019 writing will be a more important part of that work for me. I am now getting outside support to structure what I have written into a book and seek publication. As the New Year begins, I have also begun the final sabbatical grant commitment – having coffee with each person. I love this so much, and I am really looking forward to connecting with every one of you as the year continues.

We are held in God's grace, and we experience this in infinite big and small ways. Some years we've known God's grace most powerfully through pain and loss; Jesus met us as we were with and for each other. This year, it was most powerfully through play and rest. Jesus met us as we were with and for each other. It's all grace; it's all a vehicle to be pulled deeper into God's love. Belovedness is every person's most fundamental true identity, and love is every person's true purpose. Remembering that for ourselves, for each other, and for the whole world, is our sacred calling. We call the resonance that comes in those moments when we are aligned with this true identity and purpose, *joy*. What greater task is there for humans in life than this?

I'm so blessed to be sharing it with you.

Kara

## ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT

It's been a joy to be a part of Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church in 2018. I think what I learned most in our time of Sabbatical was just how much this church lives out the doctrine of "the priesthood of all believers." I felt surrounded by ministers! I love the way people call one another, text each other, and check in to make sure folks are doing all right. I love the way people step up when they see something around the church that needs to be done. I love the way this church brings together competence, creativity, and compassion!



I'm grateful to the worship team for coming up with the ideas for our Sabbatical Saturday experiences. I felt God's presence revealed in beautiful ways at each of them. It was also a joy to work with Erin and Krysta more closely during the Sabbatical time. They are both so good at what they do, and I leaned on them both a lot!

Finally, I'm especially grateful to Kara. One of the reasons that I feel called to be a part of Lake Nokomis Presbyterian church is that I know there is much that I can learn here. I continue to learn from Kara what it is to be a pastor: how to love, lead, and listen and watch for God's work in and through us.

As we move in to a new year, I have felt the leading of the Holy Spirit to continue my journey with LNPC as a Parish Associate. This means that I can continue to assist Kara and our Session, but also have more freedom to give to other parts of my life. I continue to be so very deeply grateful to Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church for the opportunities you have given me in ministry, and I hope that as a Parish Associate, I can continue to pitch in, help out, and bear witness to all the beautiful flourishings of grace within and around us.

Lisa

## SESSION REFLECTIONS



I feel grateful for the opportunities we had to become a stronger community by getting to know each other better, especially across generations- the church retreat, waffle worships, movie nights, prayers and milestones, and coffee hours. Sunday services always provided a strong and pertinent message to reflect on during the week. Sabbath Saturday services provided a time away from the bustle, emails, and cell phones of our weekly life, and a quiet time to reflect on our lives and connect with God.

Joyce Tesarek

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Definitely one of the highlights of the year for me with LNPC was our end of sabbatical retreat. It was a joy to be able to be with people for an extended amount of time and get to know them better and have fun together. It was lovely to reflect on our sabbatical time and to express gratitude about things. It's also fun to see the kids play together.

Sabbatical- It felt like we were pretty prepared for sabbatical and having Lisa as a continual pastoral presence was incredibly helpful. It seemed like things ran pretty smoothly and there wasn't as much anxiety as the previous sabbatical. It was really fun to hear about Kara and family's adventures when she returned.

I continue to appreciate how we include children in worship in different ways. We had a handful of babies grow this year and now we don't have any newborns but walkers and runners 😊

Waffle worships are always a treat and I like how they feel leisurely and like a time to connect with family.

I think it was this last year when we had a representative from three of the tithe groups come and share with us. That was very meaningful and great to build relationship and connection beyond the check sending.

It was hard to see Shannon and Katie end their time with us because it was so delightful to have these two people dedicated to loving and teaching our kids and youth. They were a joy to have.

GO LNPC!

Amy Leafblad

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What a privilege it's been to serve on session during 2018! The fusion of youth and experience in our congregation has been especially noticeable this past year. To watch my toddler gleefully interact with those her own age, those more seasoned than her grandparents, and everyone in between has been such a source of hope and encouragement for me.

It's a unique synergy that could only exist through our shared love of an everlasting God. As churches work to define their role and relevance in today's ever-changing world, I'm enthused that our own congregation has been gifted with this special ability to transcend generational differences.

Brian Rainey

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I have been serving on sessions and other church bodies since 1973 or 1974 and within a decade we had seen a radical drop in membership with accompanying loss of revenue which became an existential concern for this parish. LNPC began a slow decline where the prospect of shuttering the building became more possible with each passing year. This was due to several factors: politics both local and national, an aging congregation but most important, in my opinion, a transition of parish membership (all over the country!) to a much more transient and fluid population. I raised the question aloud at Presbytery whether we might see the traditional parish ministries (at least urban ones) need to morph into more of a chaplaincy type ministry.

In 2019 I no longer feel this way.

2018 was the year that “closing the doors” was no longer the elephant in the room at session meetings. It does not mean that we no longer have significant financial challenges but disaster doesn't seem quite so imminent in the long run. We have had help from grants and we have made (I think) productive use of spaces in the building that otherwise would have lain dormant, in the past, few years. This includes but is not limited to compensated use by outside, community groups and other congregations.

Our own “demographic” has improved in at least two ways: We have enrolled some new members who in turn have become active in the life of the church. Last year's babies and toddlers are now schoolchildren and last year's schoolchildren have become today's youth. This is very exciting to me! It oozes potential if invested well.

Finally, I sense that what has gone right has done so because we, as a congregation, have genuinely tried to silence ourselves at the critical moments and listen for God's counsel. We are serious about discernment and it is in those moments that I have felt the presence of the Spirit. One thing I have learned about prayer is that it doesn't have to be a formal, stiff, liturgical “drill and ceremony”. You can pray by the act of discernment; you can pray by the act of journeying, you can pray by enjoying the moment. My prayer is that we can keep up that particular, good work.

Bill Fischer

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It has been a busy and interesting year for LNPC. We saw God in many ways. God was there in members care for others in our congregation. Especially in the wonders of Lisa Larges. The Sabbatical went well in Kara's absence. The Saturday evening activities were nice and inclusive. Our tithing practice is becoming more directional and connecting us with other small groups. I think we saw God around the edges of new direction for Kara. We are more open to searching for our goals and what we really want to be.

We missed God in direction for the Capital Campaign, in action to determine our goals for LNPC, what we really want to do with our building, how to participate more with Trust, inspiration and a plan for Sunday School for the children, and connecting the Sabbatical with the congregation.

We are a small but mighty congregation.

Diane Hansen

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*Were there any particular themes?* I guess I'd use the term 'sufficient' for 2018. Not in a blasé way, not callous or defeatist, but as 'enough,' 'content.' Little things that were sustaining and nourishing.

*What sticks out to you when you think back on the year?* The lack of anxiety about sabbatical was huge. For me, that had many beginnings: 'we've done this before,' the Lilly Grant, Lisa's fully present and ordained leadership. Another big piece of 2018 for me was that our littles are old enough that we're developing relationships across families and generations – between themselves, and with the church-aunts/uncles/grandparent types. I think our sabbatical 'singing' brought that together powerfully – especially, for me, at the Sculpture Garden.

*How did you see God?* In car rides with Eva, in an evening with Ava... The way our elders and littles bind us together in the was/is/will be. In the warm connections with those who live at Our Saviors, with whom we get to visit as we provide Taco Tuesdays.

*How did we minister as a congregation? Any other highlights or things to note.* When I participate in conversations with others in presbytery, our life together at LNPC always feels so close to the surface and valuable. Our willingness to 'face death,' to be 'with and for' one another, to be brave and creative in the now and looking ahead. All these are ways of ministry.

Sue Goodspeed

## MUSIC MINISTRIES REPORT

2018 brought us a lot of new music! We've been working hard this year learning singing in rounds, chanting Psalms, singing liturgies and singing without any music or words in front of us (better known as "paperless singing").

Sabbatical time also taught us that we can sing as a group anywhere and anytime: parks, sculpture gardens, zoos, kitchens, around campfires, and beyond! I'm very thankful for the willingness of the congregation to learn and sing new songs beyond the hymnal. Glory to God hymnal is an amazing resource and there's also so much other wonderful music out there. Thank you for exploring it all with me.



We've had some lovely solos (Brittany Dexter! Maisy Root! Stan Hill! Bill Fischer!), duets (Sue Goodspeed and Linda Leicht!) and instrumentalists (Owen and Maisy Root! Jane Onken! Brittany & Jonathan Dexter!) from the congregation share their gifts with us throughout the year and I'm excited to have even more in the future. We've been blessed with beautiful music from cellist Adrianna O'Brien for Good Friday and Christmas Eve, and who could forget our time with the Dixieland players of Band of Praise for sabbatical reunion Sunday? We've had a lot of fun this year and our musical life has been enriched by the participation of everyone. Let's keep boisterously singing together!

Erin

## PERSONNEL TEAM REPORT

The current personnel committee consists of Terry Gilberstadt, Linda Leicht, Amy Leafblad, and Sue Goodspeed.



The ministry of the Personnel Committee is to be an advocate for staff and, when helpful, a conduit for conversation between staff and congregation.

While not completing reviews of staff during 2018 (sorry, Clerk PJ), the Personnel Team did ‘check in’ often, especially during sabbatical, about job support.

In 2018, the primary accomplishment of the Personnel Team was the determination of supplemental financial allocations to staff for their additional work during Sabbatical, and support of clergy (Lisa) and staff during that time. We, as a congregation, were so fortunate to be able to recognize, financially, the additional responsibilities brought on by ‘running’ the church in Kara’s sabbatical absence. We are grateful to the grant-writers, and the Lilly Foundation, for making these funds available.

We also worked with the pastors to craft position descriptions for two potential Education positions. One of these was filled for two months by Lizabeth Bougie – serving our second youngest age group. The second position, Director of Youth Ministry, will be filled, beginning this year, by Katie Holmberg! Yes, the same Katie who served us so lovingly and well as an intern in 2017-18.

A primary goal of 2019, in addition to ensuring our staff feel supported and valued in their work among us, will be to provide reviews for all our staff. Our process relies heavily on the input of Session and congregation, so please be ready to share your perspectives, encouragements, and recommendations.

Thanks to our amazing staff – Kara, Lisa, Erin, and Krysta – throughout 2018. God has brought together just the people we need to share leadership with LNPC.

Sue Goodspeed, Chair.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN REPORT

Sometimes things change whether we like it or not. This past spring the decision was made to discontinue PW. In the last couple of years several of our most elderly members were forced to drop out for various reasons. That left us with three regulars which really isn't enough.



Many or most of the younger women of the church are working so can't attend. Years ago not so many women worked outside the home and we had a really large PW group. The annual Bazaar was a really big money maker for the church but now we haven't had one for three years.

We three remaining members and Kara decided to disband and the money we had in our banking accounts in the amount of \$1294.65 we gave to the church and specified it be used for the new roof. Hopefully someday a new group can be formed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbora Wilson  
Georgia Mrosia  
Rosalie Topoluk

## CONGREGATIONAL SABBATICAL REFLECTIONS

-FROM POST SABBATICAL RETREAT

*Where did we see God during Sabbatical?*

- Saturdays: New ways and experiences of God. These gatherings met needs for novelty, creativity, cooperation and collaboration.
- Collaboration and teamwork.
- Getting to know each other.
- Fun, spontaneity – movie night. Cohesive.
- Strong session leadership.
- Ownership of worship – organic and multi-tendrils.
- We're all ministers – we are church together. *Koinonia*
- Noticing and perspective about our stage and place right now.
- Finding new skills sets and growth into development.
- Thinking about rest for ourselves, and finding joy – actively pursuing both.
- The Zoo! Kids running and playing together.
- The zoo – creation story, fresh and playful, the environment and embodied (silly songs)
- Brittany's leadership as treasurer. Joyful and authentic. A generational shift that feels healthy and good.
- Breaking patterns of dependence (when people we relied on for things were gone)
- Ease – ful.
- Lisa's leadership and knowing we had a leader. Organization.
- Singing (in the park) – music drawing others and expanding us.

*Where did we miss God?*

- Sadness – some folks we didn't see during sabbatical and missed.
- Missing a sermon/message on Saturdays- for some.
- Maintained division between "Sunday only" and "Saturday only" folks. Shared communal life.
- How can we embrace and live out our multi-generational identity?
- Sunday school program - struggling to figure it out.

## TITHE REPORT

2018 Mission Giving	Recipients	Tithe
JAN	Our Saviors Housing	\$1198
FEB	Marnita's Table	\$796
MAR	Chaplain Army and the St Joe's Garden	\$713
APR	Hiawatha back to school	839.28 cash to kids to do
MAY	St Joes for Movie Camp	1000 (993.76 + Gen Fund 6.24)
JUN	Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center	\$917.89
JUL	Presbyterian Disaster Services; California fires	\$1311.06
AUG	Days for Girls Program	\$817.51
SEP	21 <sup>st</sup> Century Academy @ Liberty Church	\$1010.86
OCT	Presbyterian Clearwater Forest Camp	\$1566.16
NOV	Trust	\$942.39
DEC	Exodus	\$1546.06

## TREASURER'S SUMMARY AND FISCAL YEAR REPORT

The big news in the treasuring world is... we have a new Treasurer! Brittany Dexter agreed, in August, to assume the role of Treasurer, and was duly voted to do that work by Session. Yippee!!



With the able bookkeeping of Krysta, the transition has been pretty smooth, all in all. The breadth of the job is not captured in initial 'training,' but accumulated through experience. It's been a good lesson in communication and un-written processes.

We continue to encourage on-line giving, and that has become a larger portion of our receipts.

Sabbatical began as the Treasurer transitioned, but that was probably good, as it brought many pieces of our financial puzzle into the open. The receipt of the Lilly Grant/Congregational Support was essential to our ability to both 'let our hearts sing' and meet our financial obligations. Gratitude to the writers: Kara and Sue Hensel.

Highlights (which always begins with 'payments made fully and on time!'):

- Only \$4,000 was withdrawn from the Endowment Fund during the year. This is the least we have withdrawn since 2001! Only five times since 1986 – that's 32 years ago! – have we withdrawn less than this. WOW!! We have a balance of \$49,074 a/o January 9, 2019.
- \$10,000 for general use was again given to us by Westminster Presbyterian - Minneapolis.
- The Lisa Larges Congregational Care Fund was opened in 2016, and it was tapped to cover \$5,150 of Lisa's compensation this year. Its balance is now \$710.
- We (will) distribut(ed) tithes of \$12,671.

A note for the year: the **2019 per capita** has been established: **\$35.70** per member on our rolls as of January 2018. We make a commitment, as a congregation, pay this completely, whether or not it is given by the membership. The General Fund covers whatever is not specifically contributed by members, so please attempt to contribute for each member in your family. Per Capita is the share each of us has in the functioning of our denomination – from staff to education to advocacy and our bi-annual Assemblies. It is helpful for all – congregation, presbytery, synod, and General Assembly – to have these funds submitted sooner rather than later. Thank you to those of you who have fulfilled this commitment for 2019 already.

To each member and friend: for prayer, for contributions of 'time, talents, & resources,' for courage, thank you.

Brittany Dexter, Treasurer and Sue Goodspeed, past-Treasurer!









