MINUTES OF THE SPRING GATHERING OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN UTAH

HELD VIA ZOOM, SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2021

Host: Moderator Carol Day. Business meeting coordinator: Vice Moderator Verlane Seiler. Attendees: 32, including Synod of the Rocky Mountains Board of Directors member Gail Heimbuck from Wyoming.

The Zoom conference call opened with social time at 9:45 am. The official meeting opened with a devotion, prayer, and lighting of the Christ Candle by Jane Lee Vondette at 10:05 am. Verlane Seiler moderated the business meeting. The minutes of the Fall Gathering of 2020 were accepted as presented. The Treasurer’s Report was presented; there were no comments or questions. The 2021 budget was presented. It is a deficit budget based on 8 pledges, but with faith that other PWCs will contribute as they do each year.

Verlane welcomed first timers April Hewes, Kay White, Ana Cordes, Catherine Tobey, Linda Badoian, Shirley Primeau, Melody Oliphant, Fawn Meyer and Janay Bailey. All will receive a coupon for registration at a future gathering.

Mary Hargis presented the results of the Search Committee. Candidates for the Class of 2021-24 are: Moderator Verlane Seiler, Vice Moderator Loyda Kyremes, Networker for the North Mary Hargis, Website Administrator Jane Lee Vondette. Class of 2021-22 are Networker for the Capital Carol Day, Treasurer Salley Hoffelmeyer-Katz. Class of 2021-23 are Networker for the South/Central Gen Phelps and Pastoral Resource Rev. Catherine Tobey. All those candidates were unanimously elected to office. They join Secretary Marilynn Collins, Historian Janet Wortley, Horizons Eva Edwards, Mission/Justice/Peace Emily Lower, and Newsletter Editor Aloha Whitney.

Thanks were given to outgoing officers: Moderator Carol Day, Networker for South/Central Loreen Heil, Pastoral Resource Rev. Nancy Holve, and Treasurer Lynn Erickson.

Carol presented the upcoming calendar. The PW Churchwide Gathering will be online using Zoom on August 4-5. Details will be forthcoming. A new Board of Directors will be elected at that meeting. Sally Hoffelmeyer Katz will become the Synod of the Rocky Mountains Representative. Thanks were given to Gail Heimbuck who has faithfully served these past three years.

The Fall Gathering of PW in Utah is scheduled for Wasatch Presbyterian Church, but details will not be decided until the summer CT meeting. The 2022 Synod of the Rocky Mountains Gathering will be h eld July 14-17, 2022 in Heber City.

A short break was taken. At 10:40 am Loyda introduced her daughter Amy Kim Kyremes-Park, our featured speaker. Amy Kim is serving the PCUSA as Director of Children’s and Family Ministries at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Asheville North Carolina and serves on the board of More Light Presbyterians. Amy Kim presented a program entitled “Me and white supremacy: introducing the work of Layla Saad.” She mixed her presentation with questions and dialogue that focused on what white supremacy means to the PW listeners, how we can interrogate ourselves to seek deeper answers, how white supremacy is manifested in Utah, how individuals can modify their responses, and how churches need to see white supremacy in our activities and theology. The system of white power and privilege is designed to keep us all asleep and unaware of what life is like for people who are not white. We need to challenge complicity through our activities, personal journaling and prayer. Amy Kim quoted Audrey Lorde asking, “are you willing to use the power you have in the service of what you say you believe?” When we help dismantle white supremacy, we allow something more beautiful to be born.

The meeting ended with worship and communion led by Rev. Nancy Holve and assisted by Rev. Catherine Tobey. Nancy’s focus was Transformational Service, using Romans 12: 1-2. Her call was for PW to be open to what God is asking of us, including hurt, as we help transform our society. Worship also included installation of the PWP leadership team. Nancy’s benediction closed the meeting at 12:30 pm. Nancy said farewell to PW in Utah. She is retiring and moving back to California. A farewell party will be held June 27 in Richfield; all are invited.

Closing social time continued until after 1 pm.

Marilynn Collins, Secretary