

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2018 ADDRESSES SOCIAL JUSTICE

(for a full report please see Scott Dobovsky)

Fossil Fuel Divestment: By a vote of 332-178, the assembly voted in favor of a minority report that called for the PC(USA) to continue its corporate engagement with fossil fuel companies—through its Mission Responsibility Through Investment Committee—rather than divest from those companies. The Assembly Committee on Environmental Issues had voted 35-20 for the divestment proposal offered by the Presbytery of Hudson River. After the minority report became the main motion, it was approved by the assembly 409-106.

Israel-Palestine/Middle East: After spirited debate in the Assembly Committee on Middle East Issues that spilled out into the hallways of America's Center (St. Louis' convention center), the assembly raced through the committee's report in just thirty-five minutes on June 22. Among its actions, the assembly:

- Asked RE/MAX, LLC, to end its sale and rental of property on occupied, disputed land in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. The vote was 393-55.
- Voiced support for all efforts to bring Palestinians and Israelis together peacefully.
- Asked the state of Israel to fully comply with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in order to stop discriminatory practices and called on the U.S. government to rejoin the United Nations Human Rights Council.
- Condemned the recent violence along the border between Israel and Gaza.

Racism/Poverty/Violence: The assembly engaged in various acts of public witness that sought to engage issues of racism, poverty, and violence in St. Louis under the umbrella of Stated Clerk J. Herbert Nelson, II's, Hands and Feet initiative. In addition to a number of groups who came to St. Louis to engage in Hands and Feet service/learning projects during the assembly, several "mission trips" for assembly-goers engaged with various faith-based community groups to address poverty and racism in the city. The offering from the opening worship service raised more than \$54,000, which after a dramatic march by nearly 1,000 assembly-goers from America's Center to the City Justice Center on Tuesday afternoon, was given to ArchDefenders, a faith-based group that bails low-level offenders out of jail. Nearly three dozen people, victims of St. Louis' draconian cash bail system, were released from custody with the money.

Immigration: Following on statements issued by General Assembly Stated Clerk J. Herbert Nelson, II, the assembly called upon the federal government to end family separations at the U.S.-Mexico border, to immediately reunite parents with their children, to inform every parent where their children are being held and their condition, to stop using separation of children from their parents as a tactic to force criminal confessions; and called upon Presbyterians to support immigrant families, particularly parents and their separated children in any ways they can. The assembly also addressed war, violence, and human rights in Central America (particularly Nicaragua), South Sudan, Yemen, Syria, Madagascar, and the Korean Peninsula.

Session's Busy August Meeting

For many of our new members who might not know, the Session is the governing body for the church. We provide a space for the committees to discuss with other committees how the church will move forward in the future.

At the August meeting here are some of the future growth building items we discussed.

1. Community Events Task Force - The task force will meet this fall and work with Pastor Robert to determine which events make the most sense and impact in our community and for Moorhead Presbyterian. Some possible events are Moorhead Days, WestFest, Teddie Bear Parade, River Arts Festival, FM Pride Festival. If you know of a community event of which the church should be involved, let a session member know.

2. 50th Year Building Re-dedication. The second phase of our 50th Year building celebration is worship service re-dedication. We will follow the exact same bulletin that the church celebrated 50 years ago on November 17, 1968. This will be a community wide worship service with newspaper and TV stations invited.

3. Birthday Fund and Make It a Match Campaign. In June and July of this year we raised \$5000 through the Birthday Fund and Make It a Match Campaign. Leading up to the November Rededication we are raising the bar. With realistic expectation. We plan to raise an additional \$10,000 in the fall campaign. We already have a pledge of \$5000. If you would like to play a part in the fiscal stability of Moorhead Presbyterian, please see Pastor Robert or Chris Swee.

4. New Members Join. As a sign of our new growth potential, two new members have recently joined the church. Session welcomed into member ship Justin Marek with Mackenzie Jackson and their son Kayden Marek, who will be baptized September 9. Read more about them in this newsletter.

3 Ledeboer Sisters

The history of the First Presbyterian Church (FPC) of Moorhead is the history of its people. The history may be short for those who have recently found the church and its people. For others, it is long with generations claiming it as their church over time.

Three sisters have interesting stories about their early years in the church and the subsequent lives at other parts of the world and then back again in Moorhead. The three sisters are Theresa Ledeboer Samuels, Marian Ledeboer DeJong and Dorothy Ledeboer Taft. They came to Moorhead from Prinsburg, Minnesota during the Great Depression when their father became a cattle buyer and seller. Leaving a Dutch Reformed church and joining the First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead led them to make long term friendships.

Theresa and Marian are members of the church. Dorothy is a member of Calvary Church at Village Green, but every now and then attends the service or the gathering in fellowship hall after church in FPC. She always attends the Cherry Pie Supper!

Theresa was married to a career military man (Air Force). They returned after the tours ended and settled back in Moorhead. He passed away in 2005. Theresa says she would now come to church, but her body holds her back these days. She celebrated home communion last month with Pastor Robert and me. She has an interesting background including being a taxi driver in California. Please inquire how and where she met her husband. It will not be repeated here.

Marian and her husband Don DeJong are regulars. Their church history is long and is active. Marian was a trooper in Cherry Pie Suppers, was a Sunday school teacher and a general worker wherever help was needed in the church. She is always convivial (even when she is not feeling up to par) and has an infectious laugh which this writer enjoys hearing when she rides with us to church. Don was a coach on the softball team when the church had a team. Don continues with his woodworking skills for the church.

Dorothy is the youngest and was married to Keith Taft who is listed in the Black Jack Hall of Fame. He received national recognition for his computer assisted winnings at many casinos in Las Vegas and Reno, Nevada. His original occupation was to be a music teacher, but somehow he became distracted and found beating the dealer his most interesting sideline while he was the music director at their Baptist church in California. For everyone's information, Dorothy owns a bona fide Gatling Gun! Dorothy said she made a play for Keith after noticing him behind her in the choir at the downtown FPC of Moorhead.

The three sisters had 4 other sisters and 4 brothers. Stephanie Gale says that she wished she could have known the rest of the siblings. The three we know now are all so different from each other. What were the others like? Were they so different?

First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead has provided these sisters comfort when loved ones have been lost, friendships that still remain, peace in times of turmoil and faith in their Savior and Lord. The church is blessed to have their associations.

Jim Gale

2 Pianos -- For the MUSIC in YOU

Best offer or FREE See Diane W or Kim K.



What did one pin say to the other?

Let's never split!

A dandy picture of one of two FPCM bowling teams! From left to right: Ray Gillette, Bill Gillette, Cedric Onan, Gordon Jones, Donald DeJong and Eli DeJong at the Town & Country Bowling Alley (now All Star Bowling) in north Moorhead. Picture dates back to the mid-1960s. We found no picture of the second bowling team. Vern and Elizabeth Bancroft recall that father and son Al and Vern Bancroft were on that team as were Lloyd Kreps and the Rev. Henderson. The all male teams played weekly; their wives often came to watch. (With thanks to the Bancroft and DeJong families for this information.)