

**FELLOWSHIP**

The Rev. Dr. Stephen D. McConnell welcomed the elders and staff members at 6:00 PM in the Campus Center for dinner and discussion based on *A Generous Orthodoxy* by Brian McLaren. The elders and staff then moved to Room 206 of the Education Building for the Session meeting that began at 6:50 PM.

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Teaching Elders: Senior Pastor The Rev. Dr. Stephen D. McConnell (Moderator), Congregational Life Pastor The Rev. Dr. Lal Hmingliani Browne, and Family Life Pastor The Rev. Laurie Haas. Ruling Elders: Joan Emrich, Andrea Jackson, Cliff McHenry, John McQueen, Marlene Petro, Bill Reynolds, Robin Segoe, Sandy Snyder, Lou Stern, Sandi Stewart, and Dotti Tyle. Clerk to the Session Linda Getzen, Executive Director of Operations Pam Gillespie, Music Director Genevieve Beauchamp, and Community Engagement Director Sarah Soboleski.

**EXCUSED:** Ruling Elder Tom Taylor.

**QUORUM, CALL TO ORDER, AND OPENING PRAYER:** A quorum was established. Dr. McConnell served as Moderator. He called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To approve the Agenda for the Meeting, as adjusted to switch Ministry Spotlight and Storytelling.**

**MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT:** This month's spotlight shone on Community Engagement. Director Sarah Soboleski shared how her area of communications plays a vital role in telling the Whys, the Hows, and the What Ifs of life at Church of the Palms.

**STORYTELLING:** Sarah Soboleski then told her personal story "Who Am I? Prayers were said for the storyteller.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**Congregational Life Pastor The Rev. Dr. Lal Hmingliani Browne:**

- Life Together – 13 discussion groups have formed for the next sermon series.
- Shepherding Deacons - all full church members now have Shepherding Deacons.
- Wednesday Night Life - classes are going well.
- Stephen Ministers – pray for the 9 to graduate!

**Music Director Genevieve Beauchamp:**

- Requiem – Choir rehearsing for upcoming performances at 2 services.
- American Choral Directors' Conference in Kansas City, MO.

**Executive Director of Operations Pam Gillespie:**

- Written report - See page 27 of Session package.
- Celebration Sunday 2/24 – fun and fellowship. The weekly Heart stories told by various church members were wonderful testimonies.
- Annual Giving and Extra Mile – pledges coming in.
- Maintenance/Capital - painting the Campus center is the next major project.

**Community Engagement Director Sarah Soboleski:**

- See Ministry Spotlight above.

**Family Life Pastor The Rev. Laurie Haas:**

- Honduras - Just returned from the mission trip. Maxine Perry is an amazing leader!
- *Song of Paul*, an original musical by our Steve Sipes - performances March 8, 9, and 10.

**Senior Pastor The Rev. Dr. Stephen D. McConnell:**

- Staff Leadership Retreat today. Facilitated by Pastor Linda Owens - *The Great Emergence* by Phyllis Tickle.
- Speaker Series – Crystal and David Downing from Wheaton College last Saturday – C.S. Lewis and Friends. This Saturday 3/2, Kim Phuc – *Fire Road*.
- Ordination Sunday -Set for 03/17. Incoming Elders and Deacons scheduled to receive orientation and training prior to that date.
- Session retreat – Saturday 05/18/19 (morning).
- Martha Church – The memorial service for this devoted volunteer was 2/22.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERK’S ANNOUNCEMENTS:** *The Clerk to the Session emails to Staff and Elders pertinent correspondence received between Session Meetings.* The Clerk reported that:

- Annual Congregational Meeting 1/27/19 – draft minutes included for review.
- 2018 PCUSA Statistical Report – copy previously provided to Session elders by email. Filed on time. Approval in Omnibus Motion below.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE:** Administration and Finance Chair Andrea Jackson reported:

- As the new year begins - “All is Well” in finances.

**OMNIBUS MOTION:**

**MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To pass the following Omnibus Motion (Items A-F), as presented in the Agenda**

**A. To APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:**

1. Stated Session Meeting – 01/28/19
2. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members – 02/10/19

**B. TO APPROVE THE CLERK’S REPORT:**

1. Assignments and Meetings:
  - a. Sunday Morning Prayers for the Pastors - Month of March 8:20 AM - Sr. Pastor’s office – **Lou Stern**
  - b. Session Meeting Storyteller – March – **Joan Emrich**
  - c. Deacons’ Exec. Comm. Meeting – Monday, 03/04/19 at 7 PM - **Marlene Petro**
  - d. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members - Sunday 03/10/19 at 11 AM - Chapel Reception Room - **Group 3 Elders (M. Petro, S. Stewart, D. Tyle)**
2. Membership Statistics, Baptisms & Weddings, and Home Communion (see attached Clerk’s Report)
3. PCUSA Church Statistical Report - 2018

**C. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:**

1. Elder attending Deacons’ Exec. Comm. meeting on 02/04/19 – **Sandi Stewart**

**D. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM SESSION COMMITTEES:**

1. Administration and Finance - Ch. Andrea Jackson - includes Building and Grounds Team and The Generosity Team
2. Global Mission Partners - Ch. Dotti Tyle
3. Personnel - Ch. Marlene Petro

**E. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM MINISTRY TEAMS:**

1. Family & Student Ministries (includes Palms Preschool) – *see staff reports above*
2. Contemporary Worship Service Leadership
3. Presbyterian Women - *no written report*
4. Stephen Ministry Leadership

**F. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM CONGREGATION COMMITTEES:**

1. Deacons' Executive Committee - Ch. Marie Bonifield
2. Memorial Garden Board - Ch. Sue Angle – *no written report*
3. Nominating - Ch. Robin Segó - *no written report*

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Extra Mile Campaign.** Progress reported by Pam Gillespie in Staff Reports above.
2. **Summer Internships.** Dr. McConnell reported. The Foundation will meet tomorrow and technical issues regarding funding for the proposed program will be addressed. If the way be clear, the program will begin. The matter will be returned to the Session if additional action is required by this body.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Foundation Bylaw Revisions.** Dr. McConnell reported. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and UNANIMOUSLY PASSED: To approve the following changes to the Amended and Restated Foundation Bylaws:**
  - **Revision of Article II, Section 2.4, to read as follows: *Attendance. A Director must attend at least three meetings of the Board of Directors each calendar year.***
  - **Addition of the following as the last sentence to Article IV, Section 4.3: *The balance sheets and profit and loss statements shall be filed in the registered office of the Foundation, shall be kept for the period of time required by the IRS and shall be subject to inspection during ordinary business hours by any Member.***

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. Reading for discussion at March Session dinner: *Fire Road* and Kim Phuc presentation.
2. Incoming Elders Class of 2022 will be invited to the March Session meeting – Linda Calvert, Matthew Straeb, Marcia Baarson, and Gerry Hailey.
3. March will be the last stated Session meeting for Elders Class of 2019 – Marlene Petro, Bill Reynolds, Sandy Snyder, and Tom Taylor.

There being no further business to come before the Session, **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To adjourn the meeting** at approximately 8:30 PM to a Circle of Prayer.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
The Rev. Dr. Stephen D. McConnell  
Moderator

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Linda R. Getzen  
Clerk to the Session

Attachment to official minutes:  
Clerk's Report (statistics)  
2018 PCUSA Statistical Report