

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. The elders and staff then moved to Room 206 of the Education Building for the Session meeting that began at 6:40 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: Marcia Baarson, Linda Calvert, Joan Emrich, Gerry Hailey, Andrea Jackson, John McQueen, Robin Segó, Lou Stern, Sandi Stewart, and Dotti Tyle. Clerk to the Session Linda Getzen, Executive Director of Operations Pam Gillespie, and Community Engagement Director Sarah Soboleski.

EXCUSED: Ruling Elders Cliff McHenry and Matthew Straeb, and Music Director Genevieve Beauchamp

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.**

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:

- Foundation Grant Request from Global Mission Partners for \$15,000 Honduras van was approved by the Foundation. Completed form attached to April Session minutes.
- Request from Dr. Browne to re-enroll Nancy Black as a COP member. Congregational Care is needed. Added to Clerk's Report under Omnibus Motion item B.2. below.

FINANCIAL UPDATE: Administration and Finance Chair Andrea Jackson and Executive Director of Operations Pam Gillespie reported:

- Finances are "doing good" again. Good cash position. Giving on track.
- The Palms Extra Mile campaign reached its first Foundation goal. COP has been paid back the cash it advanced for completed projects. New projects can now be started.
- Dr. McConnell recommended that the congregation be notified that the first Foundation goal has been met and seek additional commitments to reach the final goal.

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 – 04/15/19
2. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members – 04/14/19
3. Special Session Meeting to Receive Confirmands – 04/26/19
4. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members – 05/12/19

B. TO APPROVE THE CLERK'S REPORT:

1. Assignments and Meetings:

- a. Sunday Morning Prayers with the Pastors - Month of June – **Marcia Baarson**
 - c. Session Meeting Storyteller - June – **Linda Getzen**
 - d. Deacons’ Exec. Comm. Meeting – June 3 at 7 PM – **John McQueen**
 - e. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members – June 9 at 11 AM - **Group 2 Elders (M. Baarson (sub for J. Emrich), R. Segó, M. Straeb)**
2. Membership Statistics, Baptisms & Weddings, and Home Communion (see attached Clerk’s Report as revised)
- C. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:**
- 1. Elder attending Deacons’ Exec. Comm. meeting in May – Sandi Stewart
 - 2. Commissioners attending the Presbytery Meeting on May 16 – Marcia Baarson
- D. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM SESSION COMMITTEES:**
- 1. Administration and Finance Committee (includes Building and Grounds Team and The Generosity Team) - Ch. Andrea Jackson
 - 2. Global Mission Partners Committee - Ch. Dotti Tyle
 - 3. Personnel Committee - Ch. Joan Emrich
- E. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM MINISTRY TEAMS:**
- 1. Family & Student Ministries (includes Palms Preschool) - *no written report*
 - 2. Contemporary Worship Service Leadership - *no written report*
 - 3. Presbyterian Women - *no written report*
 - 4. Stephen Ministry Leadership - *no written report*
- F. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM CONGREGATION COMMITTEES:**
- 1. Deacons’ Exec. Comm.- Ch. Carol Washchuk
 - 2. Memorial Garden Board - Ch. Sue Angle - *no written report*
 - 3. Nominating - Ch. Robin Segó - *no written report*

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Senior Pastor Evaluation – Personnel Committee. Personnel Chair Elder Emrich provided a summary of the Senior Pastor’s annual evaluation conducted by a 5 member team. Continuing discussion of progress on church strategic priorities was incorporated into the Session Retreat portion of this meeting (see below). Dr. McConnell’s self-evaluation was provided in the retreat package.

SESSION RETREAT: The Session retreat “The Road Ahead” portion of the meeting began at 6:50 PM. Dr. McConnell facilitated the retreat. Feedback from the Ruling Elders on the strategic priorities and the health of the congregation will be used to assist the staff at their retreat on June 17. A combined report will be provided to the Session at its August meeting.

REFERENCE: *The Great Emergence – How Christianity is Changing and Why* by Phyllis Tickle. Dr. McConnell used this book as the focal point of the retreat. The premise of the book is that great changes in the church happen about every 500 years. We are in a time of transformation now. Takeaways [*from the Clerk*]:

- Transformation is like a rummage sale. Items are tossed out, items are brought in.
- Four traditional types of churches – Liturgical, Social Activists, Renewalists, and Conservatives. The distinctions among these churches are becoming blurred.
- The spectrum of Orthodoxy (right thinking) ----- Orthopraxis (right doing). Where do we fall?
- What is COP transforming into? How will this define our church?

- The church as a public garden – encouraging people to come in and go out. Take things away, leave things behind.

STORYTELLING 2.0: As the new round of storytelling begins, Dr. McConnell gave some suggestions for future storytellers:

- Points on your timeline that would be helpful for the Session to hear
- God moments
- Critical time in thinking
- Good things/tragedies
- Current day ponderings

Dr. McConnell then gave his reflections illustrated by a stained glass window from his childhood of Jesus praying in the Garden. God’s unconditional love and presence are found in every person. “It is Finished.” Prayers were said for the storyteller.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS: The Session broke into small groups to discuss the following, which were then shared with the whole body and will be provided to the staff for their retreat:

- What are you most excited about at COP?
- What are we missing?
- What change in strategic priorities should we consider?

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

There being no further business to come before the Session, **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED:**
To adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:10 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)