

Due to the COVID-19 virus pandemic, the elders and staff met via a video conference Session meeting that began at 6:15 PM. The Moderator opening the meeting with prayer and then small groups formed to discuss questions presented on issues of race.

MINUTES

ALL PRESENT: Teaching Elders: Senior Pastor The Rev. Dr. Stephen D. McConnell (Moderator), Congregational Care Pastor The Rev. Dr. Lal Hmingliani Browne, and Family Life Pastor The Rev. Laurie Haas. Ruling Elders: Jeanne Asakura, Marcia Baarson, Linda Calvert, Diane Curtis, Gerry Hailey, Andrea Jackson, Maxine Perry, Steve Rowe, Sandi Stewart, Matthew Straeb, and Pam Williams. Clerk to the Session Linda Getzen, Executive Director of Operations Pam Gillespie, Music Director Genevieve Beauchamp, and Director of Ministry & Mission Sarah Soboleski.

QUORUM, CALL TO ORDER, AND OPENING PRAYER: A quorum was established. Dr. McConnell served as Moderator and called the business portion of the meeting to order at about 7:15 PM. **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 asked for volunteers to act as Commissioners for the upcoming Presbytery meeting in October – *see Omnibus Motion below.* All others are welcome to attend via video conference to support our Inquirers Genevieve Beauchamp and Sarah Soboleski as they submit for examination by the Presbytery to be enrolled as Candidates.

FINANCIAL UPDATE: Administration and Finance Chair Andrea Jackson reported: Church finances continue to be very favorable. She reported that the 2002 audit was clean and was accepted by A&F. *See Session package for copy of the audit.* Thank you received from Peace River Presbytery for the grants totaling \$100,000 given by COP and the Foundation for the emergency capital fund.

OMNIBUS MOTION: PASSED WITHOUT OBJECTION: The following Omnibus Motion (Items A-F) as presented in the Agenda.

A. TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:

1. Stated Session Meeting: 05/24/2021

B. TO APPROVE THE CLERK'S REPORT:

1. Assignments and Meetings:
 - a. Sunday Morning Prayers with the Pastors at 8:20 AM in Sr. Pastor's office:
Month of September: **Gerry Hailey**
 - b. Deacons' Exec. Comm. Meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 7, at 7 PM: **Maxine Perry**
 - c. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members: Sunday, Sept. 12, at 11 AM:
Group 1 Elders (M. Baarson, M. Perry, A. Jackson)
2. Membership Statistics, Baptisms & Weddings, Home Communion (see attached Clerk's Report).
3. Appointment of Elder Commissioners to the Peace River Presbytery stated meeting (Thursday, October 14, 9:00 AM via ZOOM). *The Clerk is authorized to complete the appointment of elder commissioners in the event of a vacancy:*
 1. Linda Getzen
 2. Maxine Perry
 3. Marcia Baarson
 4. Sandi Stewart

C. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:

1. Elder attending Deacons' Exec. Comm. meeting in August: No attendee.

D. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM SESSION COMMITTEES:

1. Administration and Finance: Ch. Andrea Jackson (includes Building and Grounds Team)
INCLUDES RECEIPT OF THE 2020 FINANCIAL AUDIT FROM THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR AT KENNETH F. KANDEFER CPA
2. Global Partners Mission: Ch. Matthew Straeb *No written report this month*
3. Personnel: Ch. Diane Curtis

E. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM MINISTRY TEAMS:

1. Family & Student Ministries (includes Palms Preschool) *See staff reports above*
2. Contemporary Worship Service Leadership *No written report this month*
3. Presbyterian Women *No written report this month*
4. Stephen Ministry Leadership

F. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM CONGREGATION COMMITTEES:

1. Deacons' Executive Committee: Ch. Elizabeth Dexter
2. Memorial Garden Board: Ch. Paul Nielsen *No written report this month*
3. Nominating: Ch. Marcia Baarson *No written report this month*

OLD BUSINESS:

1. 2021-2022 Strategic Priorities. The Moderator led a general discussion regarding the 2021-2022 Strategic Priorities that were outlined. *See page 30 of the Session package*. The focus of the Priorities is based on 6 Core Values – 3 based on Loving God and 3 based on Loving Neighbor. The Priorities were favorably received, with the recommendation that baselines be added to the goals where possible, so that progress can be measured.
2. COVID Update. The COVID task force continues to “thread the needle” when exercising judgment regarding safe procedures during the pandemic. The Food Ministry has paused serving dinners. The Palms Preschool has had some positive COVID cases, which have caused certain classrooms to be temporarily shut down.
3. Visitation Pastor. Dr. Browne reported. She has returned refreshed from her sabbatical. The sudden death of beloved Visitation Pastor The Rev. Dr. Alan Rodda left a void in the area of Pastoral Care – in so many ways. His great presence will be deeply missed by all those he touched. Dr. Browne announced that two retired pastors in the congregation have volunteered to help out with pastoral visitations for the short term. Rev. Stuart Broberg and Rev. Melvin Christian were introduced to the congregation on Sunday August 23.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Inquirer Sarah Soboleski – Enrollment as Candidate.
2. Inquirer Genevieve Beauchamp – Enrollment as Candidate.

Items 1 and 2 were addressed concurrently. The Inquirers had submitted to the Session their Form 5A Application to Be Enrolled by Presbytery as a Candidate. Both Inquirers were seeking endorsement by the Session of the applications. After interviewing the candidates and discussion, **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To endorse the requests of Inquirers Sarah Soboleski and Genevieve Beauchamp to be enrolled as Candidates; and to**

continue the appointments Marcia Baarson and Jeanne Asakura as their respective Liaisons.

3. “Back 40” Conceptual Plan. A rendering of a conceptual plan for uses of the undeveloped portion of the church acreage was presented and an initial discussion was held. The concept produced by Kimley Horne involves the creation of two walking loops as well as a pavilion for outdoor gatherings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Reading: *The Color of Compromise* by Jemar Tisby.
- August 29 is Fall Kickoff Sunday!

There being no further business to come before the Session, **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To adjourn the meeting** at approximately 8:47 PM with expressions of prayer concerns and a closing prayer by Dr. Browne.

By: _____
The Rev. Dr. Stephen D. McConnell
Moderator

By: _____
Linda R. Getzen
Clerk to the Session

Attachment to official minutes:
Clerk’s Report (statistics)