

### **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 around chapters 1-4 of *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 6:55 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, John McQueen, Marlene Petro, Robin Segó, Sandy Snyder, Lou Stern, Sandi Stewart, and Dotti Tyle. Clerk to the Session Linda Getzen, Music Director Genevieve Beauchamp, and Community Engagement Director Sarah Soboleski.

**EXCUSED:** Executive Director of Operations Pam Gillespie and Ruling Elders Cliff McHenry, Bill Reynolds, and 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. No changes to agenda.

**STORYTELLING:** Elder Sandi Stewart opened the meeting with her story – Her Glass Slipper. Prayers were said for the storyteller.

### **STAFF REPORTS:**

#### **Music Director Genevieve Beauchamp:**

- Just returned from France!
- Messiah rehearsals start Tuesday.
- Choir – great team spirit and connectedness – reading Morgan Roberts' book as a small group experience
- SYV – next trip will be to Montreal. Working on a 2020 trip to Italy for SYV and Chancel Choir members.
- Genevieve is going to school and taking a class on the Old Testament. Bravo!

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

- Congregational Life is busy and happy.
- 11 Life Together small groups are running – about 12 members in each.
- 202 attended Dr. Graper's talk on Body, Mind & Spirit.
- 200+ attend the Chili Cookoff.
- Wednesday Night Life and Sunday adult classes are going well. Will and Hmingi Browne will teach 3 Wednesday classes – *A Search for the Saints on All Hallowed Eve*.
- Working to get 10 additional Shepherding Deacons for the slate.
- 12 new members received in October.
- Alan Rodda continues visitations on Fridays
- Kudos to Sarah Soboleski and Jackie Gomez for the wonderful event publicity!

**Community Engagement Director Sarah Soboleski:**

- Sarah has put sermons on Facebook. These videos are sharable – she will be including both the traditional and the contemporary service versions. Very excited to reach out to the Facebook community.
- Working on the winter version of *Connect* magazine.
- Homecoming Sunday at COP – November 4. An old-fashioned event to welcome back our snowbirds.
- Staff update will go out next Monday – information and fun facts.
- Successful luncheon held for the First Impressions ministry.
- Planning more story telling in worship – personal stories are compelling and make each service special.
- Global Mission Partners Advocate Workshop was held – moving stories shared.

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

- Contemporary Service Worship Leader and Youth Director Steve Sipes held auditions for the upcoming musical *Songs of Paul*. Dick Thompson will work on the set design.
- Steve Sipes' ministry is thriving!
- The Children's Christmas pageant on December 8 is expanding and will include adult choir members.
- The Mr. Rogers' movie *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* will be shown in the Campus Center – date TBD.
- Hospitality Coordinator Ethan Howell is setting up a coffee bar in the Palms Center.

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

- New sermon series on Generosity starts in November.
- Sermons in December will be based on I'll be Home for Christmas and what that means.
- Morgan Roberts will be preaching on November 11 – 9:00 and 11:00. Mike Murphy will be preaching at 10:00.
- Planning a group trip to Israel next fall. More information to come.
- Assisting a colleague who is struggling – has been helping out at his church for a few days.

**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 review of Clerk's Session Records on October 6 – We passed!
- Received Report from Peace River Presbytery Overtures Committee – Commissioners to the November Presbytery meeting will vote on the changes to the constitution. Copy in Session package. Questions? See Dr. McConnell.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE:** Chair of Administration and Finance Committee Elder Jackson reported:

- Written financial update is at page 39 of the Session package.
- Page 42 of the Session package sets out estimates for 2019 that Director Pam Gillespie is using to assemble the 2019 budget information.
- Finances are in good shape through the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Administration and Finance Committee is working well – new committee member CPA Phoebe Trumpler.

**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 – 09/24/18
  2. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members – 10/14/18
  3. Correction to Minutes of 02/26/18 Stated Session Meeting – to correct Clerk’s omission – to properly reflect that the following Agenda items in the Omnibus Motion were approved: B.4 (2018 Communion dates) and B.5 (training and ordination/installation date for Elders and Deacons)
- B. TO APPROVE THE CLERK’S REPORT:**
1. Assignments and Meetings:
    - a. Sunday Morning Prayers with the Pastors - Month of November – Bill Reynolds
    - b. Session Meeting Storyteller - November – Lou Stern
    - c. Deacons’ Exec. Comm. Meeting – Monday 11/05/18 at 7 PM - Bill Reynolds
    - d. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members - Sunday 11/11/18 at 11 AM -Chapel Reception Room – Group 3 Elders (M. Petro, S. Stewart, D. Tyle)
  2. Membership Statistics, Baptisms & Weddings, Home Communion, and Quarterly Worship Service Attendance Report (see attached Clerk’s Report).
  3. Appointment of Elder Commissioners to the Stated Peace River Presbytery meeting (on November 15, 2018 (Covenant Presbyterian Church, **Ft. Myers**, 2439 McGregor Blvd, 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM). The Clerk is authorized to complete the appointment of elder commissioners in the event of a vacancy:
    1. Linda Getzen 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:**
1. Elder attending Deacons’ Exec. Comm. meeting in October – Sandy Snyder
- 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 – *no written report this month.*
- 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
  3. Nominating - Ch. Robin Segó

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Church-wide Goals for 2018-19.** Dr. McConnell facilitated the discussion. The Session asked for additional information on how the 5 goals are to be measured. The church staff is in the process of developing the starting figures for each goal. Dr. McConnell will provide this information at the November Session meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Grant Request to Foundation – Mission Partners 2018/2019.** Elder Tyle reported and facilitated the discussion. The Grant is requested to provide supplemental funding for the last quarter of

2018 for those Mission Partners who are continuing into 2019. *For additional details, see Grant Request attached to the official minutes.* **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To approve submission to the Foundation of the Global Mission Partners Committee Request for \$33,075 for Mission Partners.**

2. **Grant Request to Foundation – Habitat for Humanity.** Elder Tyle reported and facilitated the discussion. The Grant is requested to provide funding for washers and dryers in 10 new Habitat for Humanity homes at \$600 per home. *For additional details, see Grant Request attached to the official minutes.* **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To approve submission to the Foundation of the Global Mission Partners Committee Request for \$6000 for Habitat for Humanity.**
3. **Grant Request to Foundation – Capital Projects.** Elder Jackson reported and facilitated the discussion. The Grant is requested to provide funding for three capital projects – beginning renovations to the Palms PreSchool wing of the Education building, replacing the Sanctuary lift, partial funding for new flooring and painting in the Campus Center. The Administration and Finance Committee has approved the projects. *For additional details, see Grant Request attached to the official minutes.* **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To approve submission to the Foundation of the Facilities Ministry Grant Request for \$100,000.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. Dr. Browne was commended for her leadership of the new member classes and her excellent materials.
2. Reading for October Session dinner – *A Generous Orthodoxy* by Brian McLaren to chapter 8.
3. October is Staff Appreciation Month!!!!
4. Candidate for Ordination Jordan Goodwin will be preaching before the Peace River Presbytery Committee on Preparation for Ministry on November 21 in North Port. For information - Jordan is under the care of our Presbytery, but she intends to seek a pastoral call in New Jersey, so the Presbytery in NJ will be the one to receive her when the time comes.

There being no further business to come before the Session, **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To adjourn the meeting** at approximately 8:35 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)
- Grant Request to Foundation – Mission Partners 2018/19
- Grant Request to Foundation – Habitat for Humanity - washers and dryers
- Grant Request to Foundation – 3 Capital Projects