

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 *The Great Emergence* by Phyllis Tickle. The elders and staff then moved to Room 206 of the Education Building for the Session meeting that began at 6:45 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: Linda Calvert, Joan Emrich, Gerry Hailey, Andrea Jackson, Cliff McHenry, John McQueen, Robin Segó, Lou Stern, Sandi Stewart, Matthew Straeb, 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. Community Engagement Director Sarah Soboleski. **EXCUSED:** Ruling Elder Marcia Baarson.

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.

STORYTELLING 2.0: Pastor Laurie Haas opened the meeting with her story – *The Egg*.

MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To approve the Agenda for the Meeting.

STAFF REPORTS:

Executive Director of Operations Pam Gillespie:

- Successful and fun Bon Voyage Sunday.
- Trainer for church data base brought in for staff training
- Inquiry for audit information received from CPA – Audit should be ready in October.

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

- Congregational Life – Wednesday Night Life is starting up again. 45 signed up for dinner. On Bon Voyage Sunday, many more people signed up for small groups based on reading *The Good and Beautiful God*.
- Shepherding Deacons – more nominees are needed.
- Hmingi hosted a fun new members' dinner at her house.

Music Director Genevieve Beauchamp:

- Seminary –She and Sarah Soboleski just returned from seminary classes at Dubuque. Learning is enriching her life.
- Community music announcements

Community Engagement Director Sarah Soboleski:

- Sarah and Genevieve shared group photos of the classmates in their “cohort” at Dubuque -- they are from many denominations. Great experience!

Family Life Pastor The Rev. Laurie Haas:

- Student Ministry had its kickoff on Sunday evening – 80-90 kids and parents.
- New part-time Palms Center Director Susan Neisler starts after Labor Day week.
- Almost 200 attended the Contemporary Service on Sunday!

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

- Discussion with Session – feedback on Bon Voyage Sunday.
- Israel - Jordan trip in October is filled – 35 travelers
- Alan Rodda will be on temporary leave from worship leadership to rest his throat.

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:

- As noted at the June Session meeting, we are participating in a pilot of the Congregational Advocate program created by the Presbytery’s Committee on Ministry. This is an ongoing relationship to provide support and communication between the church and the COM. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To appoint Ruling Elder Joan Emrich as the Session contact for our Congregational Advocate Judy Bremer.**
- Discussion and update provided on the personnel matter involving a non-church member. Directive approved by Session last fall had to be enforced due to continuing boundary issues. Elders previously provided with Clerk’s correspondence.
- Called Meeting of Peace River Presbytery (10 AM) with BBQ and Fellowship (11 AM) Saturday 09/14/19 – 1st PC Port Charlotte.

FINANCIAL UPDATE: Administration and Finance Chair Andrea Jackson reported:

- Strong cash position. Revenue is up.
- See page 21 of the Executive Director’s Report in Session package for details.
- 2020 budget process starts with staff this fall. Will look at ways to use a possible 2019 surplus.

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 – 06/24/19
2. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members – 07/14/19
3. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members – 08/11/19

B. TO APPROVE THE CLERK’S REPORT:

1. Assignments and Meetings:
 - a. Sunday Morning Prayers with the Pastors - Month of September – **Gerry Hailey**
 - b. Session Meeting Storyteller - September – **Genevieve Beauchamp**
 - c. Deacons’ Exec. Comm. Meeting – Sept. 3 (Tuesday) at 7 PM – **Cliff McHenry**
 - d. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members – September 8 at 11 AM – **Group 1 Elders (M. Baarson, A. Jackson, C. McHenry)**
2. Membership Statistics, Baptisms & Weddings, Home Communion, and Quarterly Attendance Report (see attached Clerk’s Report)
3. Appointment of Elder Commissioners for a called meeting of Peace River Presbytery (Saturday, 09/14, 10 AM at First PC, Port Charlotte). *The Clerk is authorized to complete the appointment of elder commissioners in the event of a vacancy:*
 1. Linda Getzen
 2. Linda Calvert
 3. Matthew Straeb
 4. _____

C. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:

1. Elder attending Deacons’ Exec. Comm. meeting in August– Robin Segoo

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)
- 2. Contemporary Worship Service Leadership
- 3. Presbyterian Women
- 4. Stephen Ministry Leadership

F. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM CONGREGATION COMMITTEES:

- 1. Deacons' Exec. Comm.- Ch. Carol Washchuk
- 2. Memorial Garden Board - Ch. Sue Angle
- 3. Nominating - Ch. Robin Segó

OLD BUSINESS:

Mission Vision Strategic Focus Update. Dr. McConnell provided an updated handout and facilitated a discussion regarding the strategic focus for the year. Keeping within the Mission: *Love God and Love Neighbor*, and the Vision: *To become more and more the most loving place in town*; the Strategic Focus is to: *Actively promote the spiritual, mental, and physical well-being of our neighbor and each other*. The goal is to provide something that people feel they need by ministering to the whole person in these three elements of well-being. Staff members described some of the developing initiatives in each of the three areas. Spiritual well-being is promoted by closer relationships through small groups, fellowship, and hospitality; as well as by delivering compelling and welcoming worship experiences. Mental well-being is promoted through community enrichment (speaker series, educational and music programs) and promoting mental health (presentations, support groups, a Wholeness Service). Physical well-being is promoted through physical growth/activities and a palliative care initiative. There is a vision that the Palms Center will become a hub of activity for people to experience health and wellness 7 days a week.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Reading for September Session dinner is through chapter 2 of *The Good and Beautiful God*.
- Try journaling!
- Join a small group!

There being no further business to come before the Session, **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED:**
To adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:38 PM to a Circle of Prayer.

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

By: _____
 Linda R. Getzen
 Clerk to the Session

Attachments to official minutes:
 Clerk's Report (statistics)