

### **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 Good and Beautiful Life* by James Bryan Smith. 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: Marcia Baarson, 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 and Director of Outreach & Families Sarah Soboleski.

**EXCUSED:** Executive Director of Operations Pam Gillespie (vacation) and Music Director Genevieve Beauchamp (studying for her Hebrew class!).

**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.**

**STORYTELLING 2.0:** Elder John McQueen opened the meeting with his story, *Better Than I Deserve*. Prayers were said for the storyteller.

**MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT:** This month Sarah Soboleski shone the spotlight on Family Ministry – its mission, its values, its 3-year goals.

### **STAFF REPORTS:**

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

- Wine Tasting – 30 attended last Friday - good fellowship.
- 10 new members in February!

#### **Director of Outreach & Families Sarah Soboleski:**

- Volunteers needed to work the Welcome table under the tree on Sundays. Nora Roberts and Liz Barnett are co-chairs.

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

- Bruce Hedgepeth is heading up the young adult/college student ministry outreach.
- Developing Stations of the Cross for Holy Week.
- Lenten Devotionals distributed.

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

- *Love, Life, Celebrate* Commitment Sunday yesterday. Making strides in generosity.

**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:

- Draft minutes of 01/26/2020 Annual Congregational/Corporation meeting provided for review.

- Reminder of dates for new Elder training, ordination, and Session retreat below.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE:** Administration and Finance Chair Andrea Jackson reported that 2020 finances are off to a great start.

**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: 01/27/2020
2. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members: 02/09/2020
3. Special Session Meeting to Elect a Foundation director: 01/26/2020

**B. TO APPROVE THE CLERK'S REPORT:**

1. Assignments and Meetings:
  - a. Sunday Morning Prayers for the Pastors: Month of March, Sundays 8:20 AM in Sr. Pastor's office: **Lou Stern**
  - b. Session Meeting Storyteller for March: **Robin Segó**
  - c. Deacons' Exec. Comm. Meeting on Monday, March 2, 7 PM: **Matthew Straeb**
  - d. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members on Sunday, March 8, 11 AM in Chapel Reception Room: **Group 3 Elders (J. Hailey, S. Stewart, D. Tyle)**
  - e. Training for incoming Elders Class of 2023: Saturday, March 21, 9 AM.
  - f. Ordination of incoming Elders and Deacons: Sunday, March 29, 9 AM, Sanctuary
  - g. Session retreat: Saturday, April 25, 9 AM-12 PM, Room 206
2. Membership Statistics, Baptisms & Weddings, Home Communion (see attached Clerk's Report)
3. Ratification of Corporate Resolution authorizing the Clerk to sign paperwork on behalf of COP as a residuary beneficiary of the Brueck Charitable Remainder Unitrust

**C. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:**

1. Elder attending Deacons' Exec. Comm. meeting in February: Joan Emrich

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

1. Administration and Finance: Ch. Andrea Jackson (includes Building and Grounds Team)
2. Global Partner Mission: Ch. Matthew Straeb
3. Personnel: Ch. Joan Emrich *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 *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. Carol Washchuk
2. Memorial Garden Board: Ch. Sue Angle *No written report this month*
3. Nominating: Incoming Ch. Marcia Baarson *No written report this month*

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Personnel Update. Dr. McConnell reported. With the departure of Steve Sipes, Family Ministry is evaluating its opportunities. Dr. McConnell is grateful for a clear Personnel policy and the

counsel of others. James Thompson is back as our Property Manager. Welcome new part time employee Pao Hong – he will be working on graphic design tasks with Jackie Gomez and doing photography on Sundays. Tom Dieckhoff has “unretired” and is back on the facilities staff.

2. Presbytery Meeting Update. All is on schedule to host the February 27 meeting. Thank you volunteer organizer Dotti Tyle and staff!

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Grant Request to Foundation: Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance. Dr. McConnell reported and provided the background on this project by the Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance to assist farmworkers and their families by developing and building 128 small housing units on a recently purchased site. An extensive historical summary of the Immokalee farmworker community and estimated financial and cash flow projections for the Alliance project were provided in the Session package. For additional grant details, see Grant Request attached to the official minutes. The Global Partners Mission Committee has previously provided \$25,000 for this project from its 2019 budget and surplus. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To approve submission to the Foundation of the Request for \$25,000 for the Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance project.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. Elder John McQueen provided an update on the Boy Scouts. Our Troop 895 is very appreciative of their church home. They are looking to add a Cub Scout pack. Our troop is part of the Two Rivers District based in Ft. Myers and is separate financially from the national organization. Elder McQueen emphasized that strict safety policies are followed.
2. Incoming Elders Class of 2023 are invited to attend the March Session dinner and meeting: Jeanne Asakura, Andrea Jackson, Jason Morton, and Pam Williams.
3. Reading for discussion at the March Session dinner: *The Good and Beautiful Life* by James Bryan Smith.

There being no further business to come before the Session, **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To adjourn the meeting** at approximately 8:25 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)  
Foundation Grant Request for Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance (attachments omitted)