

**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 chapters 5-8 of *Blood Done Sign My Name* by Timothy B. Tyson. 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) and Congregational Care Pastor The Rev. Dr. Lal Hmingliani Browne. Ruling Elders: Joan Emrich, Andrea Jackson, Cliff McHenry, John McQueen, Marlene Petro, Bill Reynolds, Robin Segó, Sandy Snyder, Sandi Stewart, Tom Taylor, and Dotti Tyle. Clerk to the Session Linda Getzen, Executive Director of Operations Pam Gillespie, Executive Director of Ministries Laurie Haas, Music Director Genevieve Beauchamp, and Community Engagement Director Sarah Soboleski.

**EXCUSED:** Ruling Elder Lou Stern.

**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:** Elder Snyder opened the meeting with her story – *I was Born in a Farmhouse*. Prayers were said for the storyteller.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**Executive Director of Operations Pam Gillespie:**

- Celebrating “Unearth” Day – the courtyard is torn up to fix drainage problems. Estimated date for completion is May 5. Campus wide landscape improvements will follow.

**Music Director Genevieve Beauchamp:**

- Season is winding down. The SYV end of the year concert is Sunday at 4:00 PM. They are finishing their 11<sup>th</sup> season. Prayers asked for SYV as they face competition to retain children - other music groups forming in the area.

**Congregational Care Pastor The Rev. Dr. Lal Hmingliani Browne:**

- All is well with Congregational Care.
- Dr. Browne will be taking over much of Carolyn Wilson’s work in Christian Education, new member classes, and Presbyterian Women. Joyful and excited to be returning to her first love.

**Executive Director of Ministries Laurie Haas:**

- Thank you to Elders for attending the Confirmation dinner – feedback is welcome!
- One confirmand who could not attend was received at a Special Session meeting on May 23.
- The Palms Center hosted 76 people at an introduction to pickleball.
- Will attend a leadership event this week with other staff - Orange Conference 2018.

**Community Engagement Director Sarah Soboleski:**

- Provided the Session with an introduction to the new church website design. She will email the link to the website test. Feedback is appreciated.

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

- Session Retreat Saturday 8:30 AM- 12 PM in the Palms Center. The Theme is “The Soul of Leadership.” Homework reading – Psalms: 16, 23, 51, 90, 103 and 139.
- Ordination and Installation for Laurie Haas is Sunday, May 6 at 4:00 PM in the Sanctuary.

**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:

- Reminder that the May Session meeting is one week early – Monday, May 21.
- Revisions to Omnibus Motion items A.2. and B.3.:
  - Minutes of the Special Session Meeting to Receive the Confirmation Class are revised to delete the confirmand who could not attend on April 20.
  - Clerk’s Report is revised to show that the last confirmand was received at a Special Session meeting held May 23. Minutes of that meeting to follow next month.

Elder Sandy Snyder is the Session Liaison for Candidate Jordan Goodwin. Elder Snyder reported on the amazing number of activities that Jordan has been involved in this past year. Jordan is graduating from Princeton Theological Seminary on May 19. She will take ordination exams April 26-27. She intends to look for pastoral calls in the greater NJ area. Jordan anticipates completing her master’s degree in May 2019.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE:** Administration and Finance Committee Chair Elder Taylor reported:

- For details, see Report of Director of Operations on page 12 of the Session meeting package.
- Generosity – less pledging but more other giving.
- Line of credit is not needed yet. Maybe in July.
- Reported on potential apartment construction on nearby property and a request from the owner to commit 30 COP parking spots to share – Administration and Finance Committee declined.
- Study on cost per hour of renting out the Palms Center will be prepared and examined.

**OMNIBUS MOTION:**

**MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To set aside for discussion or clarification, item D.2. of the Omnibus Motion as presented in the Agenda.**

**MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To pass the following Omnibus Motion (Items A-F), less item D.2., as presented in the Agenda.**

**A. To APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:**

1. Stated Session Meeting – 03/26/18
2. Special Session Meeting to Receive 2018 Confirmation Class – 04/20/18

**B. TO APPROVE THE CLERK’S REPORT:**

1. Assignments and Meetings:
  - a. Sunday Morning Prayers with the Pastors - Month of May – Sandy Snyder
  - b. Session Meeting Storyteller – May – Marlene Petro
  - c. Diaconate Exec. Comm. Meeting – Monday 05/07/18 at 7PM – Joan Emrich

- d. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members – Sunday 05/20/18 at 11 AM Chapel Reception Room - Group 1 Elders (A. Jackson, C. McHenry, B. Reynolds)
- e. Calendar of Stated Session Meeting Dates for 2018-19 Session Year – All Mondays. Dinner at 6:00 PM. Meeting at 6:45 PM. Dates: 4/23, 5/21 (*1 week early*), 6/25, (no July), 8/27, 9/24, 10/22, 11/26, 12/17 (*1 week early*), 1/28, 2/25, and 3/25. First meeting of 2019-20 Session year will be 4/22/19.
- 2. Appointment of Elder Commissioners to the quarterly Peace River Presbytery meeting (Thursday, May 17 - St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, North Port, 5550 S. Sumter 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. L. Getzen--2. R. Segó--3. \_\_\_\_\_--4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Membership Statistics, Baptisms & Weddings, Home Communion, and Quarterly Worship Service Attendance Report (see attached Clerk's Report)
- C. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:**
  - 1. Elder attending Deacons' Diaconate meeting in April – Dotti Tyle
- D. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM SESSION COMMITTEES:**
  - 1. Administration and Finance - Ch. Tom Taylor  
- includes Building and Grounds and The Generosity Team
  - 2. Global Mission Partners - Co-Ch. Dotti Tyle
  - 3. Personnel - Ch. Marlene Petro
- E. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM MINISTRY TEAMS:**
  - 1. Equipping Ministry – *see staff reports above*
  - 2. Family & Student Ministries (includes Palms Preschool) – *see staff reports above*
  - 3. Contemporary Leadership
  - 4. Legacy Giving - *no written report*
  - 5. Presbyterian Women - *no written report*
  - 6. Stephen Ministry Leadership
  - 7. Worship Planning - *no written report*
- F. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM CONGREGATION COMMITTEES:**
  - 1. Diaconate Exec. Comm. - Ch. Barry Buchanan
  - 2. Memorial Garden Board - Ch. Sue Angle
  - 3. Nominating - Ch. Robin Segó - *no written report*

**ITEMS FROM OMNIBUS SET ASIDE FOR CLARIFICATION OR DISCUSSION:**

**Item D.2. – Global Mission Partners Committee.** Elder Tyle reported. The Committee presented two Grant Requests for consideration by the Foundation. For details, *see Grant Requests attached to official minutes*. The first is a request for \$3000 to assist in development of Strong Kids, Strong Emotions, a PCUSA World Mission program through the Middle East Council of Churches designed to respond to the trauma recovery needs of Syrian and Iraqi children, both Muslim and Christian, currently refuged in Lebanon. This is a new COP Global Mission Partner. The second is a request for \$4005 for the Honduras Good Samaritan Fund. This project aids low income Honduran families by providing monthly food, as well providing education and medical assistance to children at risk and the elderly. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED and PASSED: To approve submission to the Foundation of the Global Mission Partner Committee's Grant Requests for (1) \$3000 for the PCUSA World Mission project in the Middle East, and (2) \$4005 for the Honduras Good Samaritan Fund.**

**MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To receive Omnibus Motion item D.1.**

## OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Building Committee.** Bill Reynolds reported.
  - a. The Certificate of Occupancy for The Palms Center has been received! The crew is working through the punch list of remaining items. Most items will be done by early May.
  - b. The Building Committee carefully investigated the question of fencing the retention pond. A summary report is set out on pages 45-46 of the Session meeting package. Dr. McConnell stated that the staff has reviewed the Building Committee report and has determined to keep the pond in its current state. Perhaps signs will be posted as a reminder that the pond is not for human use.
2. **Insurance Policies.** Director Gillespie reported. The church insurance policies have been reviewed. They were issued last year for three-year terms. The question of whether to obtain updated appraisals of the church properties was referred to the Administration and Finance Committee.

## NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Election of Church Officers.** Being the first meeting of the new Session year, the meeting proceeded to the election of officers of the church and corporation. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To elect the following church/corporate officers for a one-year term ending when successors are elected:**

<b>President – Tom Taylor</b>	<b>Vice President – Andrea Jackson</b>
<b>Treasurer – Fred Chamberlain</b>	<b>Secretary/Clerk to the Session – Linda Getzen.</b>
2. **Designated Fund for Youth Mentor Program,** Dr. McConnell reported that a \$30,000 designated gift has been offered by a church member couple to assist the student ministry. One proposed concept is a part-time position for a mentor to help students transition from high school to their lives in college, military, or careers. It is possible that the donors will continue the gift in future years. The hope is that the mentor would help students retain their “sticky faith,” and help them stay connected to God and our church, especially during the summer months while they may be back home. Perhaps through a mission trip. Laurie Haas and others are brainstorming to work out the details of the concept to bring back to the Session. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND PASSED: To approve the establishment of a designated account on the church books to receive the gift.**
3. **New and ongoing projects.** Dr. McConnell reported:
  - a. Working on a staffing re-model in the wake of Carolyn Wilson’s departure. Staff is aligning with gifts and talents. Supplemental staffing will be considered. More information to come.
  - b. Looking at the use of present facilities and their challenges. Enhancing area that we are already using. Such as: analyzing the Chancel to see if the Sanctuary can be made more usable by outside groups; TLC for the Sanctuary piano; reviewing the Campus Center and kitchen facilities; and seeing if more use can be gained by making some simple changes to the Chapel.
  - c. Reviving the dream with the Foundation of establishing a speaker series.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Reading for May Session dinner: *Blood Done Sign My Name* by Timothy B. Tyson, Chapters 9-12.
- **Session Retreat – Saturday, April 28, 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM – Palms Center**

There being no further business to come before the Session, **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED:**  
**To adjourn the meeting** at approximately 8:58 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 – Global Mission Partners– Honduras Good Samaritan Fund

Grant Request to Foundation – Global Mission Partners – PCUSA Middle East