

**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 *Traveling Mercies* by Anne Lamott. The elders and staff then moved to Room 206 of the Education Building for the Session meeting that began at 7:08 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: Andrea Jackson, Bob Baarson, Marty Guice, Bill Mallett, John McQueen, Marlene Petro, Bill Reynolds, Robin Segó, Jane Delgado Semidei, Sandy Snyder, Tom Taylor, and Dotti Tyle. Clerk to the Session Linda Getzen, Executive Director of Operations Kevin Kenny, Executive Director of Ministries Laurie Haas, Music Director Genevieve Beauchamp, and Equipping Director Carolyn Wilson.

**EXCUSED:** Ruling Elder Jane Delgado Semidei.

**QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER:** A quorum was established. Dr. McConnell served as Moderator and called the meeting to order. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To approve the Agenda for the Meeting.**

**OPENING PRAYER:** Elder Guice opened the meeting with prayer.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**Executive Director of Operations Kevin Kenny.** [See page 17 of Session package for detailed report]. Items of note:

- Communications -The consultant from Be Known For Something has completed phase 1 of the COP assessment. Phase 2 involves focus groups [See further discussion under Dr. McConnell's report below].
- Generosity – Pledge units and pledge dollars are at 90%.
- Insurance coverage - Annual review report required by the Presbytery:
  - Commercial Property Insurance – Renewal slated for 5/31/17.
  - Worker's Comp. Ins. – 2016 audit completed and adjustment paid. Renewal 1/1/17 completed. Expiration 1/1/18.
  - General Liab./Crime/Professional/Auto/Umbrella Ins. – Renewed 1/1/17. Expiration 1/1/18.
  - D&O (Directors & Officers) – 3-year policy. Expiration 1/1/19.
  - Special Risk Ins. – Renewed 4/28/17. Expiration 4/28/2018
- Memorial Garden:
  - Administration & Finance, Personnel Committee, and Memorial Garden have agreed to extend Greg Agnacion a part-time position (20 hrs./month) to provide for the perpetual care of the Memorial Garden. Funding for the position will come from Memorial Garden funds. Awaiting final direction from Sue Angle of the Memorial Garden board.

- Current Memorial Garden fund disbursements were being handled in conformance with COP policy and procedures. The Foundation has requested direction regarding how disbursements from invested funds are to be handled.
- Memorial Garden funds invested through the Foundation need to be included in the financial books of COP.
- Discussion regarding \$117K Memorial Garden funds invested through the Foundation's advisors at UBS Financial Services. Memorial Garden account had a loss in 2016.
- Inquiry made as to the 5-10 year business plan of the Memorial Garden board. Administration and Finance will come along side of the Memorial Garden board on this matter.

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

- Thank you to Dr. McConnell for speaking at the Stephen Ministry meeting during the busy Easter season.

**Executive Director of Ministries Laurie Haas:**

- Contemporary Service – On Easter - Parable of the forks. Being given a new fork means something better is coming – like dessert. As with Christ. The Session was given forks to remind them of the Something Better that is coming.
- A booklet of Faith Statements by the confirmands was distributed.
- ECC staff invited the office staff to a potluck lunch during Easter week. The office staff has invited the ECC staff to a potluck in honor of Teacher Appreciation in May. Remember to thank an ECC teacher!
- Congratulated Carolyn Wilson on her preparations for the Maundy Thursday service – it was “the bomb.”

**Equipping Director Carolyn Wilson:**

- New Wednesday night class on the Psalms – led by Hmingi Browne, Will Browne, and Carolyn Wilson.

**Music Director Genevieve Beauchamp:**

- Bach series was well received. It was a challenge to the choir to sing in German!
- More (younger) people are joining the choir.

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

- Thank you to the music department for their contributions to the Bach series.
- Big thank you to Ray Bakich for his work on the Easter Service on Lido Beach.
- Great spirit at the COP 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration – Thank you to staff members Kathy Robinett and James Thompson. Very special to have Dr. Bruce Porter and retired music director John Ferreira participate.
- Scotland trip – 33 are set to go June 6-19.
- Session retreat on April 29 will focus on the spiritual life of an elder.
- The consultant from Be Known For Something will be conducting focus groups. Dr. McConnell and Director Kenny asked the Session to provide Director Kenny with names of members in the Sarasota community ages 57-74 who are not involved with COP who would be willing to participate. Time involved will be about 1 hour on June 8 or 9.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:** *The Clerk to the Session emails to Staff and Elders pertinent correspondence received between Session Meetings.* The Clerk reported:

- \$99 from Elders for 11 Session dinners may be paid by check to COP or paid online. Please put your checks in Kevin or Wendy's box.

- 19 members of the 2017 Confirmation Class were received by the Session at a Special Meeting on 4/21/17, however, three confirmands remain to be received. **The Session called a Special Session meeting on April 26, 2017 at 6 PM in Dr. McConnell's office for the purpose of receiving these new members.** Ruling Elders John McQueen and Bill Reynolds agreed to attend.

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

- See page 11 of Session package for detailed report.
- Finance are within 1% of goals. Will do further analysis on why we are doing so well.

**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 – 03/27/17
2. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members (confirmation class) – 04/21/17

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

1. Assignments and Meetings:
  - a. Sunday Morning Prayers with the Pastors – Month of May – Sandy Snyder
  - c. Session Meeting Opening Prayer – 05-22-17 -Dotti Tyle
  - d. Diaconate Exec. Comm. Meeting – 05/01/17 – Marty Guice
  - e. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members – May – CANCELLED due to Mother's Day
2. Membership Statistics (items 2-5 see attached Clerk's Report)
3. Baptisms & Weddings
4. Home Communion
5. Worship Service Attendance Report through 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter  
 Special Congregational Meeting will be on April 30 at 10 AM - called by the Session (see March minutes) for the purpose for electing the APNC.  
 Calendar of Stated Session Meeting Dates for 2017-18 Session Year – All Mondays at 7:00 PM – 4/24, 5/22, 6/26, (no July), 8/28, 9/25, 10/23, 11/27, 12/18 (1 week early), 1/29, 2/26, and 3/26. Dinner at 6:00 PM. First meeting of 2018-19 Session year will be 4/23/18. **PLEASE NOTE CORRECTED DATES IN 2018**
6. Appointment of Elder Commissioners to the quarterly Peace River Presbytery meeting (May 18 – Arcadia). The Clerk is authorized to complete the appointment of elder commissioners in the event of a vacancy:
  1. Linda Getzen    2. Bob Baarson
  3. Marty Guice    4. Robin Segoe

**C. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:**

1. Elder attending Deacons' Diaconate meeting in April – Tom Taylor - *Gave oral report about the friendliest group in town!*

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

1. Administration and Finance – Ch. Tom Taylor - includes Building and Grounds - Ch. Paul Ross and The Generosity Team - Ch. Bob Baarson
2. Global Partners – Ch. Jane Delgado Semidei (will be Dotti Tyle)
3. Personnel – Ch. Marlene Petro

**E. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM MINISTRY TEAMS:**

1. Equipping Ministry – Dir. Carolyn Wilson – *see Staff reports above*
2. Family & Student Ministries (includes Early Childhood Center) – Exec. Dir. Laurie Haas - *see Staff reports above*

3. The Garden 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. Don Schalekamp
2. Memorial Garden Board – Ch. Sue Angle
3. Nominating – Ch. Robin Segó

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Building Committee.** Elder Reynolds reported. He gave a status update and answered questions about the auxiliary retention pond required by SWFWMD and the Palms Center budget. The increased cost of the auxiliary pond will be paid from the contingency funds. The contractor’s preliminary schedule shows a mid-February 2018 completion date.
2. **Contemporary Service Vision.** Second reading. Director Haas reported. Changes requested last month have been included. Additional wordsmithing and discussion regarding the terms “mission” and “vision.” It was agreed that the wording will be revisited. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To accept the Contemporary Service Vision Statement. [See attached].**
3. **Early Childhood Center Vision & Core Values.** Second reading. Director Haas reported. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To accept the Early Childhood Center Vision & Core Values Statement. [See attached].**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Election of Officers.** **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To elect the following church/corporate officers for a one year term ending when successors are elected:**  
**President – Tom Taylor**  
**Vice President – Andrea Jackson**  
**Treasurer – Fred Chamberlain**  
**Secretary/Clerk to the Session – Linda Getzen**
2. **Office 365 IT Migration.** Director Kenny reported. This Grant Request from the Administration and Finance Committee will provide funding to migrate the existing email exchange server to the Office 365 cloud based application. The existing exchange server has reached the end of its life – no further support from Microsoft. This is an immediate issue and is not dependent on other changes being contemplated. The amount requested is \$5,000 to \$6,000, not to exceed \$6,000. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED and PASSED: To approve submission to the Foundation of the Office 365 Grant Request.**
3. **Pending Honduras Grant.** There is a pending Foundation Grant Request to come to the Session to fund shipping and installation of donated dental equipment for our mission partners in Honduras. The request is being finalized. Time is of the essence. Therefore, **the Session called a Special Session Meeting to be held during the Session Retreat on Saturday, April 29, for the purpose of reviewing and acting upon the Grant Request.** Further information will be provided by Dr. McConnell.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. Reading for May Session dinner: *Velvet Elvis: Repainting the Christian Faith* by Rob Bell. Please read the preface through Chapter 5. Books are in church mailboxes.
2. Session Retreat – Saturday, April 29 – 9 AM to noon in Room 206. In preparation, watch *Mr. Holland’s Opus*. Bring your Bible.
3. The Rev. Rick Howell and Dr. Dan Watts, representing Samaritan Counseling, will speak at the Unitarian Church on integrating mind, body, and spirit.

There being no further business to come before the Session, **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED:**  
**To adjourn the meeting** at approximately 8:45 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)
- Grant Request to Foundation – Office 365 (attach after form completed by Foundation)
- Contemporary Service Vision Statement
- Early Childhood Center Vision and Core Values Statement