

### **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 article *Why Attending Church No Longer Makes Sense* by Carey Nieuwhof. The elders and staff then convened in the Campus Center for the Session meeting that began at 6:52 PM.

### **MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Teaching Elder: Senior Pastor The Rev. Dr. Stephen D. McConnell (Moderator). Ruling Elders: Andrea Jackson, Bob Baarson, Marty Guice, Bill Mallett, John McQueen, Marlene Petro, Robin Segó, Jane Delgado Semidei, Sandy Snyder, 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 Equipping Director Carolyn Wilson.

**EXCUSED:** Congregational Care Pastor The Rev. Dr. Lal Hmingliani Browne and Ruling Elder Bill Reynolds.

**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.** New Executive Director Operations Pam Gillespie was welcomed to the meeting. Dr. McConnell related the tireless efforts of Facilities Manager James Thompson and his crew around the church campus during the recent days of incessant rains, leaks, and flooding. He encouraged all to express their appreciation to James.

**STORYTELLING** - Elder Mallett opened the meeting with his story recalling path-changing moments in his life and remembering to thank God.

**OPENING PRAYERS** – Prayers were said for the storyteller.

### **STAFF REPORTS:**

**Congregational Care Pastor The Rev. Dr. Lal Hmingliani Browne (the Clerk reported in her absence):**

- On study leave in Zurich and Geneva, August 23-31. In October, she and Will Browne will teach a class on what they learned.
- Shepherding Deacons quarterly meeting in July went well with 106 attending.
- Working on finding 55 Shepherding Deacons for the Class of 2021.
- Recruiting Stephen Ministers for the class of 2018
- Hosted a new member welcome dinner in July. Hopes to do that again in October.
- Table for 8 dinner groups going well.
- Very grateful to Congregational Care Ministry Team – Ann McColgan, Alan Rodda, Cherie Leetzow, Jan Gilbert and Sandy Snyder.
- Elder Baarson also shared a warm note from member Judith Bacon.

### **Executive Director of Ministries Laurie Haas:**

- Intern Kevin has returned to school – had a wonderful experience. Intern Adair will be here in September. Laurie will report further at the next Session meeting.

- Wednesday, August 30 is Student Kickoff.
- Contemporary Service - Sunday, September 3 – possible worship leader will be testing the waters.

**Music Director Genevieve Beauchamp:**

- Focus on community outreach – through SYV and the Choir. Collaborations with Meals on Wheels, and the Salvation Army. Caroling.
- A concert for peace will be performed in March – involves community focus on displaced children. Collaborations with the local temple and mosque.
- Another Bach series will begin in January.
- Piano recitals on Thursdays.

**Equipping Director Carolyn Wilson:**

- Excellent turnouts for new member classes this summer: June=14, July=9, August=12.
- Great line-up of Fall classes:
  - Dale Vollrath is back teaching again on Sunday morning.
  - Mary Ann Vollrath and Elder Sandy Snyder are co-leading a women's study on Discerning the Voice of God.
  - Elder Robin Sego and Faith Reynolds are beginning another 25-week women's discipleship group.
  - Pastors Hmingi and Will Browne will teach a Wednesday night class in October on the Reformation.
  - Carolyn will teach a lead-in class to theirs on Wednesday nights in September beginning September 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Test driving a Bible study off-site at The Glenridge the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday afternoons in October and November. 50 COP members live there. 10 residents responded by survey that they would like to have a Bible study. If it goes well and there are enough participants, it will continue.
- Cause for celebration - Carolyn has completed 7 out of 8 seminary intensives. She also passed her Exegesis ordination examination, the first of five exams required by the PC(USA)!

**Executive Director of Operations Pam Gillespie:**

- Renovation of the playground will start on Wednesday – delay due to rain.
- Work on the tile Sanctuary roof will also start soon.
- Upcoming budget meetings with staff.

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

- New front office coordinator – Sarah Soboleski. Sandra Leake and family have moved to Lakewood Ranch and she accepted a job closer to home.
- Communications project – working tag line is *Love. Life*. Art work and imagery will be developed for presentation. The next steps are clearing up the website and other communications materials.

**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:

- Correction to Clerk's Report in Omnibus Motion below – Elder Petro will give the Prayers for the Pastors in September.

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

- For details, see report on page 28 of the Session package.
- Finance are in good shape. Giving is strong and expense management is good.

**OMNIBUS MOTION:**

**MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To set aside for discussion or clarification, items C.1., E.6., and 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 items C.1., E.6., and D.2., as presented in the Agenda.**

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

1. Stated Session Meeting – 06/26/17
2. Special Session Meeting to receive July New Member Class – 07/16/17
3. Special Session Meeting to receive August New Member Class – 08/20/17

**B. TO APPROVE THE CLERK’S REPORT:**

1. Assignments and Meetings:
  - a. Sunday Morning Prayers with the Pastors – Month of September – Marlene Petro
  - b. Diaconate Exec. Comm. Meeting – 9/5/17 (Tuesday) – Bob Baarson
  - c. Storyteller for September Session meeting – Andrea Jackson
  - d. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members – 9/10/17 – Elder Group 1 (Baarson, Jackson, Reynolds)
2. Membership Statistics (items 2-5 see attached Clerk’s Report)
3. Baptisms & Weddings
4. Home Communion
5. Sunday Worship attendance statistics through 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter
6. Annual Review of Session Records by Presbytery. Clerk requests that Cathie Silbaugh be appointed as Reader to assist the Clerk with the review report.

**C. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:**

1. Elder attending Diaconate Exec. Comm. meeting in August – Sandy Snyder – *received separately below.*

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

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

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

1. Equipping Ministry – Dir. Carolyn Wilson – *see staff report above*
2. Family & Student Ministries (includes Early Childhood Center Committee) – Exec. Dir. Laurie Haas
3. The Garden Leadership – *no written report this month*
4. Legacy Giving – *no written report this month*
5. Presbyterian Women – *no written report this month*
6. Stephen Ministry Leadership – *received separately below.*
7. Worship Planning – *no written report this month*

**F. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM CONGREGATION COMMITTEES:**

1. Diaconate Exec. Comm.– Ch. Barry Buchanan
2. Memorial Garden Board – Ch. Sue Angle – *no written report this month*
3. Nominating – Ch. Robin Segó – *no written report this month*

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

**Item C.1. – Elders Report on Deacons Meeting.** Elder Snyder emphasized that the Deacons want to have an updated church directory be given sincere consideration. The information in the directory is very useful to their work. Dr. McConnell reported that the Staff Leadership Team discussed the matter today. Executive Director of Operations Pam Gillespie will do some investigating into our present database to see what can be made available given privacy constraints. She will present an update to the Session with options. There was concern that providing a printed directory that goes out of date quickly may not be the most useful option for the Deacons. Discussion regarding options and concern about staff time costs involved in coordinating a new printed directory. It was noted that responses from the members when the last directory was produced were down from a prior printing.

**Item E.6. – Stephen Ministry Leadership.** The wrong minutes were included in the Session package. The correct minutes for August were distributed by Elder Snyder.

**Item D.2. – Global Partners Committee.** Elder Semidei referred to a motion in the Global Partners Committee minutes asking that the 15% withheld from the 22 mission partners be distributed now. Due to a communication gap, this motion was not received by the Administration & Finance Committee for review for their August meeting. Elder Taylor reported that the motion will be on the agenda for the September Administration & Finance Committee meeting and will be reported upon at the September Session meeting.

**MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To receive Omnibus Motion items C.1., E.6., and D.2.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Building Committee.** See written report in Session package. In the absence of Elder Reynolds, Pam Gillespie reported that the metal roof is being completed and the project is still on schedule for completion.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Vision/Mission Update.** Dr. McConnell led a continued discussion around the article *Why Attending Church No Longer Makes Sense* by Carey Nieuwhof that was discussed at dinner. He presented a draft of the “I AM” church calendar of events for September – December: *I am a neighbor, I am a global citizen, I am thankful, I am the Light of the world.* These are initial steps towards making relational connections among those who participate in “being” the church.
2. **Food Pantry.** Dr. McConnell is forming a task force to review the Food Pantry Ministry – how it can become more strategic. Any interested elders may join the task force.
3. **Personnel Update.** See below.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Inquirer Jordan Goodwin has been accepted as a Candidate for Ordination by the Peace River Presbytery Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

- Reading for discussion at September dinner: *Dangerous Wonder: The Adventure of a Childlike Faith* by Michael Yaconelli – Chapters 1-4. Books are in the church mailboxes.

**MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED at 8:38 PM: To enter Executive Session.** The Session was informed of a recent personnel transition. Discussion was held. No action was taken during the Executive Session, so no separate minutes were prepared. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To end Executive Session at 9:02 PM.**

There being no further business to come before the Session, **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To adjourn the meeting** at approximately 9:02 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)