

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 *Velvet Elvis* by Rob Bell. The 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 Elder Senior Pastor The Rev. Dr. Stephen D. McConnell (Moderator). Ruling Elders: Andrea Jackson, Marty Guice, Bill Mallett, Marlene Petro, Bill Reynolds, Robin Segó, Jane Delgado Semidei, Tom Taylor, and Dotti Tyle. Clerk to the Session Linda Getzen, Executive Director of Ministries Laurie Haas and Equipping Director Carolyn Wilson.

EXCUSED: Teaching Elder Congregational Care Pastor The Rev. Dr. Lal Hmingliani Browne. Ruling Elders, Bob Baarson, John McQueen, and Sandy Snyder. Executive Director of Operations Kevin Kenny and Music Director Genevieve Beauchamp.

GUESTS: Intern Kevin Staunton and Inquirer Jordan Goodwin (she arrived at 8:20 PM).

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.**

STORYTELLING. Storyteller Linda Getzen opened with her story *Jigsaw Puzzles*.

OPENING PRAYERS: The meeting was opened with prayers for the storyteller.

STAFF REPORTS:

Equipping Director Carolyn Wilson:

- Working with volunteer Linda Calvert on the Guest Shepherding Program - Visitor Follow-up System. A handout describing the program was provided.
- Shared a Ramadan dinner with a new friend from the local mosque.

Executive Director of Ministries Laurie Haas:

- Middle school mission trip – helped at a Boys & Girls Club.
- Family Ministry budget financials are improving.
- ECC is advertising for a new assistant director. ECC Director Sandy Shockley is doing an excellent job.

Intern Kevin Staunton from Princeton Theological Seminary:

- Working with Laurie Haas, Dr. Browne, and pastor Alan Rodda doing a variety of ministry tasks.

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

(In her absence, the Clerk read her report summary):

- Reorganizing and upgrading the Visitation Ministry Team
- Shepherding Deacons and Stephen Ministry
- Revising the Deacons' Handbook

- Grateful to God for all 170+ volunteers in Congregational Care Ministries
- Senior Pastor The Rev. Dr. Stephen D. McConnell:**
- Great trip to Scotland and “Narnia.” Very eye opening for many. Looking at the layers of Christian pilgrimage in Britain.

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:

- FYI to Elder Groups 3 and 4 – Special Session meetings to receive new members in July and August will be on the **third** Sunday of those months.

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

- Fabulous! See financial recap on page 17 of the Session package.
- All ministry areas are doing better at managing expenses to budget.

OMNIBUS MOTION:

MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To set aside for discussion or clarification, item D.1. 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.1., as presented in the Agenda.

A. To APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:

1. Stated Session Meeting – 05/22/17
2. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members – 06/11/17

B. TO APPROVE THE CLERK’S REPORT:

1. Assignments and Meetings:
 - a. Sunday Morning Prayers with the Pastors – Month of July – 7/2 = R. Sego, 7/9 = M. Petro, 7/16 = S. Snyder, 7/23 = J. Semidei, and 7/30 = M. Petro
 - b. Sunday Morning Prayers with the Pastors – Month of August – Dotti Tyle
 - c. Diaconate Exec. Comm. Meeting – 8/7/17 – Sandy Snyder
 - d. Storyteller for August Session meeting – Bill Mallett
(See list of storytellers in Session package)
 - e. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members – 7/16/17 – Elder Group 3
(note this is on the 3rd Sunday)
 - f. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members – 8/20/17 – Elder Group 4
(note this is on the 3rd Sunday)
2. Membership Statistics (items 2-4 see attached Clerk’s Report)
3. Baptisms & Weddings
4. Home Communions

C. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:

1. Elder attending Deacons’ Diaconate meeting in June – Andrea Jackson

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 - *Report received separately below*
2. Global Partners – Co-Chs. Jane Semidei and 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 this month*
5. Presbyterian Women – *no written report this month*
6. Stephen Ministry Leadership – *no written report this month*
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:

1. **Item D.1. – Administration and Finance Committee.** Repairs are needed to the sanctuary roof. See details beginning at page 30 of the Session package (bids on page 34). Recommendation from the committee to accept the bid from Trident with a contingency added. **MOTION COMING FROM THE ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE, and PASSED: To accept the Trident bid of \$243,000, with a 5% contingency, for a total cost of \$325,000, and to direct Facilities Manager James Thompson to obtain and solidify final contract and start date.**

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Building Committee.** Elder Reynolds provided a status report on various aspects of the Palms Center building construction.
2. **Strategic Goals Discussion continued.** Dr. McConnell provided a handout that listed the following 2017-18 Strategic Initiatives and Goals:
 1. Mission: To love God and love neighbor.
 2. Vision: To become the most loving place in town.
 3. Overall Goal: To become a growing and sustainable ministry:
 - Goal #1 Create a compelling Sunday morning experience.
 - Goal #2 Become a household name for people we are suited to serve.
 - Goal #3 Create a ministry to the whole person:
 - a) Body
 - b) Mind
 - c) Spirit
 - d) Financial
 - e) Emotional

He explained the different measurements that may be used to assess the success of the three goals: Attendance, generosity, marketing in a new and better way, budgeting, use of human resources. Goal #1 - Changes are in the planning stages. How can we invite people ahead of time to experience the compelling Sunday experience? Goal #2 - We are in stage 2 of the communications consultant contract. Their recommendations will help determine who we are best suited to serve. Goal #3 - Director Haas explained one possible partnership with the YMCA

to address the wellbeing of the whole person in the new Palms Center. General discussion was had about the goals.

3. **Executive Director of Operations update.** Elder Petro provided an update on the transition to a new Executive Director of Operations. A search team was formed, consisting of Dr. McConnell, Joan Emrich, Elder Taylor, and Elder Petro. The position was advertised, resumes were processed, and 2 on-campus interviews are pending. Resumes continue to arrive. In the interim, Dr. McConnell will serve as director of operations with the assistance of the Administration and Finance Committee.
4. **Contemporary Worship Director update.** Director Haas reported. A search team was formed with Gene Washchuk representing the Personnel Committee. A job description has been developed for this part-time position. Anita Lustrea is the interim worship leader

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Candidacy of Inquirer** – Inquirer Jordan Goodwin came before the Session and stated that she is ready to be enrolled into the Candidate phase of her preparation for ministry. Jordan told about her studies, her internship, her preaching and her pastoral care experiences. She feels called to minister to the whole person -- body, mind and spirit. She is blending her studies by finishing her Masters of Divinity at Princeton Theological Seminary and pursuing a Masters in Social Work at Rutgers University. She has been working this summer as a chaplain at Tampa General Hospital and found it very rewarding. The floor was then opened to questions from the Session. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To endorse the request of Jordan Goodwin to be enrolled as a Candidate under the care of Peace River Presbytery, and to continue the appointments of her liaison Elder Sandy Snyder.** A circle of prayers was then formed for Jordan.
2. **Global Partners Committee – Approval of Guide.** Elder Jane Delgado Semidei described the proposed Guide for the Global Partners Committee and its history. See text of the Guide beginning on page 57 of the Session package. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To approve the Guide for the Global Partners Committee.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. **Day of Hope** – Elder Tyle provided an update on the upcoming Day of Hope on July 22. In the Sarasota area, 29 churches and 33 schools are participating. 2,262+ children are anticipated to be served. Church of the Palms is expecting 250 children. There will be 1000 people on campus. Fundraising goals have been met and exceeded, thanks to the generosity of our church family.

There being no further business to come before the Session, **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To adjourn the meeting** at approximately 9:05 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)