

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 around *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 7:07 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: Bob Baarson, Donald Browning, Marty Guice, Al Jeffrey, David MacMillan, Bill Mallett, Marlene Petro, Bill Reynolds, Robin Sego, Sandy Snyder, and Tom Taylor. 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.

GUESTS: Incoming Ruling Elders: Andrea Jackson, John McQueen, and Dotti Tyle. Early Childhood Center Director Sandy Sinkfield joined the meeting for the New Business conversation.

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 with an extended time for New Business discussion.**

OPENING PRAYER: Elder Taylor opened the meeting with prayer.

STAFF REPORTS:

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

- 10 new Stephen Ministers have graduated!
- Dr. McConnell spoke to the Shepherding Deacons at their meeting on March 11.

Executive Director of Ministries Laurie Haas:

- Confirmation Class will be received by the Session at dinner on Friday, April at 6:00 PM.
- Cedarkirk Confirmation retreat upcoming.

Music Director Genevieve Beauchamp:

- Bach Music & Reflection Series is going well.
- Several concerts coming up.
- Thank you to Media Director Don Prieur for all his hard work on the AV.
- SYV 10th anniversary concert May 7 at 4:00 PM.

Executive Director of Operations Kevin Kenny:

- Details on the Executive Director of Operations' Report at p. 2 of the Session package.
- Building painting completed.
- Payroll has transitioned out to ADP.
- Server migration project – upcoming meetings with prospective service providers.
- Communications – Phase I of a project funded through the Foundation will start in April.
- ECC – 2 teachers recently hired. 1 part-time position to be filled.

- ECC- Early enrollment going very well- reaching full capacity. Kudos to Director Sandy Sinkfield for her leadership.
- Generosity – Pledge units received -- 96% of last year at this time.
- Parking – Spaces have been lost due to the construction project. Discussion re work around. Notice will go out re additional parking available at neighboring businesses.

Equipping Director Carolyn Wilson:

- Re-Ignite retreat very successful at Day Spring. 40 participants + team. Great teamwork!

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

- Nominating – Report from Chair Elder Seago. Slate of members of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) for an Associate Pastor for Congregational Mission is being formed. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To call a Special Meeting of the Congregation for a Sunday in April or May 2017 (date and time to be determined by the Senior Pastor) for the purpose of electing the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, and to direct that notice of the meeting be announced from the pulpit on two consecutive Sundays prior to the meeting and placed in the churchwide communication.**
- The 60th anniversary of Church of the Palms is April 21. On Sunday, April 23, The Rev. Dr. Bruce Porter will be preaching and former music director John Ferreira will direct the choir. There will be one service at 10 AM and a picnic will follow.
- The trip to Scotland and Narnia is shaping up – 30 travelers thus far.

CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERK’S ANNOUNCEMENTS: *The Clerk to the Session emails to Staff and Elders pertinent correspondence received between Session Meetings.* Items for the record reported by the Clerk:

- From February meeting - Grant Request to Foundation for \$6300 for summer interns and Grant Request to Foundation for \$20,000 for Samaritan Counseling SIT curriculum development were approved by the Foundation on March 21.
- Report on 2017 Changes to Pastors’ Terms of Call filed with the Presbytery in February.
- Installation/ordination of elected Elders and Deacons on Sunday 3/26/17. They have received their training. Session Ruling Elders take office on 4/24/17.
- A Moderator was not able to be present at the March new member class meeting, so a vote was not taken. Prospective members were met by three Ruling Elders. The new members affirmatively answered the required questions for membership. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To receive into the membership of Church of the Palms on March 27, 2017, those New Members (6) and New Affiliate Members (7) listed on the 03/27/17 Clerk’s Report.**

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

- Details on the A&F Financial Recap February 2017 at page 16 of the Session package.
- February was a fine month. Contributions ahead of last year. ECC continues a robust performance. Church expenses are running better than budget primarily due to timing.

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 –2/27/17
- B. TO APPROVE THE CLERK’S REPORT:**

1. Assignments and Meetings:
 - a. Sunday Morning Prayers with the Pastors – Month of April – Jane Semidei
 - c. Session Meeting Opening Prayer – 4/24/17 – Marty Guice
 - d. Diaconate Exec. Comm. Meeting – 4/3/17 – Tom Taylor
 - e. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members – CANCELLED (Palm Sunday)
 - f. Special Session Meeting to Receive Confirmands - 4/21/17 dinner - ALL ELDERS
 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 March – Bill Mallett
- 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
 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 – *No written report*
 3. Nominating – Ch. Robin Segó – *Also see Dr. McConnell's staff report above*

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Building Committee** – Report by Elder Reynolds. Site permit has been approved by Sarasota County. A permit from SWFWMD is pending. More computer modeling requested about surface water flow. Drainage pond is being expanded.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Vision and Mission Conversation** – Led by Executive Director of Ministries Laurie Haas. This was a first reading discussion. Discussion about both the Contemporary Service Vision and the Early Childhood Center Vision and Core Values. ECC Director Sandy Sinkfield was present to assist with the ECC discussion. She was applauded for her excellent work at ECC. Points: Vision of all communities of Church of the Palms being together as one church. Contemporary Service as an intimate community. ECC as an equipping environment integrated into the life of the church. Perhaps create Vision Statements for the 9 AM and 11 AM worship communities as well.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Reading for discussion at the 4/24/17 Session dinner – Finish *Traveling Mercies* by Anne Lamott.

There being no further business to come before the Session, **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED:**
To adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:30 PM to a Circle of Prayer and laying on of hands for
outgoing Ruling Elders, Don Browning, Al Jeffrey, and David MacMillan.

By: _____
The Rev. Dr. Stephen D. McConnell
Moderator

By: _____
Linda R. Getzen
Clerk to the Session

Attachment to official minutes:
Clerk's Report (statistics)