

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 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.

QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER: A quorum was established. Dr. McConnell served as Moderator and called the meeting to order. A request was made to go into Executive Session for New Business item 3.

MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To approve the Agenda for the Meeting, as revised.

SHARING OUR STORIES: This will be a new part of the agenda for the coming months. Each participant is invited to share a story. To live out the “S” in P.A.L.M.S. The way the story is told is part of the story. It can be a life story, moments, a recent story, a collage, a poem, music -- anything is fine. Storyteller Dr. McConnell opened with an essay.

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

STAFF REPORTS:

Executive Director of Operations Kevin Kenny:

- See written report at page 37 of Session package for summaries.
- 2016 Audit – Paperwork has been provided. Auditors will start on June 5.

Equipping Director Carolyn Wilson:

- Surveying The Glenridge (local senior living community) residents. They are interested in having a Bible study there.
- Working on a better process to follow up with guests to COP.
- Church library - working on the webpage.
- Right Now Media (online Bible based study library) – soft launch. Advertised in June/July Connect magazine. Will post recommendations regarding the videos.

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

- Stephen Ministries – Founder Dr. Kenneth Haugk will speak at COP on November 11 on his newest book – about cancer.

Executive Director of Ministries Laurie Haas:

- Contemporary Worship Leader Chris Edwards is leaving due to family and work priorities. Guitarist Mark is staying.
- Attended the Orange Conference.

- Student Ministry - Reached its fundraising goal of \$35K. Students and their parents started a COP snack bar that raised money to fund 5 student scholarships.

Music Director Genevieve Beauchamp:

- SYV - Will be taking 35 singers to New Orleans next month. Actively recruiting new singers. Wonderful 10th anniversary celebration for SYV. The commissioned work – The Peace of Wild Things by Sean Ivory - is on YouTube.

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

- The Scotland group is off on tour June 6-20.

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

Status of Grant Requests submitted to Foundation in April:

- Office 365 migration – Approved 5/9/17
- Honduras dental equipment shipping and installation – Approved 5/9/17.

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

- See Financial Recap at page 21 of Session package.
- Finances are in good shape, taking into account a few timing issues between months.

OMNIBUS MOTION:

MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To set aside for discussion or clarification, item D.2. – Global Partners 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 – 4/24/17
2. Special Session Meeting to receive 3 members of confirmation class – 4/26/17
3. Special Session Meeting re Honduras Grant Request to Foundation - 4/29/17

B. TO APPROVE THE CLERK’S REPORT:

1. Assignments and Meetings:
 - a. Sunday Morning Prayers with the Pastors – Month of June – Robin Sego
 - b. Diaconate Exec. Comm. Meeting – 6/5/17 – Bob Baarson (*Clerk’s Note: Andrea Jackson will sub*)
 - c. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members – 6/11/17 – Elder Group 2
2. Membership Statistics (items 2-4 see attached Clerk’s Report)
3. Baptisms & Weddings
4. Home Communion

C. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:

1. Elder attending Diaconate Exec. Comm. Mtg. in May - Marty Guice - *no written report*
2. Commissioners Attending Presbytery Meeting on 05/18/17 – Linda Getzen

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 – Ch. Dotti Tyle
3. Personnel Committee – 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 – *see New Business item 1 below*
5. Presbyterian Women – *no written report*
6. Stephen Ministry Leadership – *no written report*
7. Worship Planning – *no written report*

F. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM CONGREGATION COMMITTEES:

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

ITEMS FROM OMNIBUS SET ASIDE FOR CLARIFICATION OR DISCUSSION:

Item D.2. – Global Partners. Elder Semidei provided an overview of the Guidelines for the Global Partners Committee included in the Session package. She explained that the Guidelines are being further refined and will be presented at the June Session meeting. The Committee would like to pull the current version from their report. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To receive Omnibus Motion item D.2. – Global Partners Report omitting the Guidelines for Global Partners.**

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Building Committee.** Bill Reynolds provided a short update on the Palms Center project. The SWFWMD permit has been received. Underground construction is nearing completion. Weather permitting, the slab is scheduled to be poured on 05/26/17. EDO Kevin Kenny met with the general contractor and is working on revised cash flow projections.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **General Gift Acceptance Policy and Legacy Giving Policies and Guidelines.** These guidelines were originally adopted in 2012. Upon a periodic review, minor changes were made and the policies and guidelines were submitted to the Administration and Finance Committee, the Foundation, and the Session for approval. - **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To approve the General Gift Acceptance Policy and Legacy Giving Policies and Guidelines.**
2. **Strategic Goals.** Dr. McConnell reviewed the 2016-17 Strategic Initiatives and Goals that were adopted last year. They are:

2016-17 Strategic Initiatives and Goals:

1. Communicate Effectively Church of the Palms' new mission and vision
 - a. Mission: To Love God, Love Neighbor.
 - b. Vision: To Become the Most Loving Place in Town
2. **[PA]** Recast Mission and Vision of The Garden and Early Childhood Center to align more closely to the Mission and Vision of Church of the Palms
 - a. Present Mission and Vision alignment plan of the Early Childhood Center to Session at its January meeting.
 - b. Present Mission and Vision alignment plan of the Garden to Session at its March meeting.
3. **[L]** Present Leadership Development goals to Session at its September meeting.
 - a. Develop database tracking system and baseline numbers by June 30, 2016.

4. **[M]** Present Volunteer recruiting goals to Session at its September meeting.
 - a. Develop database tracking system and baseline numbers by June 30, 2016.
5. **[S]** 5000 Introductions of COP to Disconnected and 1000 New Contacts from May 2015 to March 2017.
 - a. Develop database tracking system by June 30, 2016.
6. Increase in worship by 100 from May 2015 to March 2017.

Items 3, 4 and 5 are continuing works that have been stalled because implementation of a database tracking system has been delayed. Item 6 is a concern – average worship attendance has been declining.

Dr. McConnell then presented the following proposal:

2017-18 Strategic Initiatives and Goals:

- I. Mission: Love God/Love Neighbor
- II. Vision: The Most Loving Place in Town
- III. Becoming a growing and sustainable ministry:
 - a. Create a compelling Sunday morning experience.
 - b. Church of the Palms as a household name for people we are suited to serve.
 - c. Create a ministry toward the whole person.

After initial discussion, Dr. McConnell asked the Session to think and pray on those proposals. Discussion will continue at the June Session meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Thank you to Executive Director of Operations Kevin Kenny for his service. He will be with COP into June. Elder Semidei thanked the staff and Session for their prayers, meals, cards, and calls – she’s back!

Staff left the meeting at 8:49 PM. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: That the Session enter Executive Session.** Discussion of New Business Item 3. Personnel Transitions. No actions taken. No minutes were taken.

MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To exit Executive Session and to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business to come before the Session, the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 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)