

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 *Blood Done Sign My Name* by Timothy B. Tyson. The elders and staff then moved to Room 206 of the Education Building for the Session meeting that began at approximately 6:45 PM.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Teaching Elders: Senior Pastor The Rev. Dr. Stephen D. McConnell (Moderator) and Congregational Life Pastor The Rev. Dr. Lal Hmingliani Browne. Ruling Elders: Joan Emrich, Andrea Jackson, Cliff McHenry, John McQueen, Marlene Petro, Bill Reynolds, Robin Segó, Sandy Snyder, Lou Stern, Sandi Stewart, Tom Taylor, and Dotti Tyle. Clerk to the Session Linda Getzen, Executive Director of Operations Pam Gillespie, Music Director Genevieve Beauchamp, and Community Engagement Director Sarah Soboleski.

EXCUSED: Teaching Elder: Family Life Pastor The Rev. Laurie Haas.

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

STORYTELLING: Elder Marlene Petro opened the meeting with her story – *Her Side of the Tracks*. Prayers were said for the storyteller.

STAFF REPORTS:

Community Engagement Director Sarah Soboleski:

- Having exciting conversations with neighboring Wilkinson Elementary about working together.
- New Connect magazine is out. Impressive content about our missions.
- COP website is now live - thanks to part of a communications grant from the Foundation.
- Branding with the new church logo continues around the campus.

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

- Looking forward to her new roles in leading Christian Education and new member classes – 16 new members received this month!
- Congregational Care is doing well. Grief booklets sent to 20 families who have lost loved ones.
- Bonney Miller is retiring after 10 years as the volunteer communion coordinator for the Sanctuary. Dr. Browne recruited the new Sanctuary Communion Team: Linda Getzen, Robin Segó, and Sandy Snyder.

Music Director Genevieve Beauchamp:

- Chancel Choir is winding up for the summer. Choir member Judy Bacon had a spill with broken bones. She has been such an inspiration to the Choir. They have been very supportive of her.

- 14 members of Sarasota Young Voices are going to Greece. SYV camp starts June 11 – help spread the word to interested parents.

Executive Director of Operations Pam Gillespie:

- New drainage is working – bring on the rain!
- Genevieve Beauchamp’s daughter Daphne Waggener is working in the church office this summer – a blessing!
- Most scheduled capital projects have been completed. The next project will be upgrading the lighting in the Sanctuary in June.

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

- Congratulations to COP women graduating from seminary last weekend – Laurie Haas, Jordan Goodwin, and Carolyn Wilson!
- All day staff retreat was held today. More to follow.
- The Rev. Laurie Haas’s Ordination and Installation was a wonderful celebration this month.

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:

- Elders - please give Pam Gillespie a check to defray the cost of your 2018-19 Session dinners. 11 dinners @\$9 = \$99. Mark the COP check “Session dinners.”
- At the April Session meeting, the Clerk was authorized to fill two vacancies for Elder Commissioners to attend the Peace River Presbytery stated meeting on May 17. She appointed Wayne Kindt and Pat Kindt.
- The Foundation has approved the Global Mission Partners Committee grant requests: (1) \$3000 for the PCUSA World Mission project in the Middle East, and (2) \$4005 for the Honduras Good Samaritan Fund.
- General Presbyter Graham Hart is retiring in 2019. A Northern Area regional meeting will be held at COP on Wednesday 06/27/18 at 9:30 AM to share input for the Ministry Information Form and Job Description for the next General Presbyter position. All are welcome to attend.
- COP Elder Gerry Hailey has joined the Presbytery Personnel Committee.
- It is anticipated that a Special Meeting of Peace River Presbytery will be called for Thursday 08/09/18, and one item of business will be the examination of Carolyn Wilson for ordination and installation. More information to come.
- The May Clerk’s Report as revised and distributed at the meeting is revised again to delete reference to an adult baptism (determined to not be needed).

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

- Finances are doing better than budget, both in revenue and expenses. See page 25 of the Session package for details.
- The Certificate of Occupancy for the Palms Center was received. The credit line has not been needed yet.
- Request by Session members for a summary of monthly financials to be posted in the Sunday bulletin.

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 – 04/23/18
2. Special Session Meeting to Receive final member of Confirmation Class – 04/23/18
3. Special Session Meeting to Receive May New Member Class – 05/20/18 (*distributed at Session meeting*)

B. TO APPROVE THE CLERK’S REPORT:

1. Assignments and Meetings:
 - a. Sunday Morning Prayers with the Pastors - Month of June – Robin Segó
 - b. Session Meeting Storyteller – June -Genevieve Beauchamp
 - c.. Diaconate Exec. Comm. Meeting – Monday 06/04/18 at 7 PM – Tom Taylor (substituting for A. Jackson)
 - d.. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members - Sunday 06/10/18 at 11 AM -Chapel Reception Room - Group 2 Elders (J. McQueen, R. Segó, R. Stewart (substituting for J. Emrich))
2. Membership Statistics, Baptisms & Weddings, and Home Communion (see attached Clerk’s Report, as revised)

C. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:

1. Elder attending Deacons’ Diaconate meeting in May – Joan Emrich
2. Commissioners attending the Presbytery Meeting on 05/17/18 – Robin Segó (*distributed at Session meeting*)

D. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM SESSION COMMITTEES:

1. Administration and Finance - Ch. Tom Taylor - includes Building and Grounds and The Generosity Team
2. Global Mission Partners - Co-Ch. Dotti Tyle
3. Personnel - Ch. Marlene Petro

E. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM MINISTRY TEAMS:

1. Equipping Ministry –includes First Impressions Leadership
2. Family & Student Ministries (includes Palms Preschool) – *see staff reports above*
3. Contemporary Leadership
4. Legacy Giving - *no written report*
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 Segó - *no written report*

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Building Committee.** Bill Reynolds reported. See page 55 of Session package for details. Just a few remaining items on the punch list left to be completed. Getting close to winding down.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Memorial Garden Restricted Funds Transfer.** A request has been submitted to transfer \$10,000 from the Memorial Garden restricted funds managed by the Foundation to the Memorial Garden account at COP. [*See Request attached*]. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED and PASSED: To**

approve submission to the Foundation of request to transfer \$10,000 from Memorial Garden restricted funds to Memorial Garden account #22198 at Church of the Palms.

2. **Global Mission Partners Committee** – Community Engagement Director Sarah Soboleski and Elder Dotti Tyle reported. The Committee is getting the word out about COP missions – global, regional, and local. They are working to tie all missions together under the Mission of Church of the Palms – *Love God, Love Neighbor*. Sarah presented a power point overview and a handout about how COP missions nourish the Body, Mind and Spirit. The Committee is seeking to engage the congregation, not just through financial support for missions, but also through service and in-kind donations of time and talents. One goal is to create a congregation of Ambassadors so that COP grows as a missional church. New Global Mission partner criteria is being established to assist the Committee in maintaining its focus.
3. **Mission and Vision Discussion** – Dr, McConnell led the discussion. A staff retreat was held all day today. The focus was on the mission of COP: *Love God. Love Neighbor*, and the vision of COP: *To Be the Most Loving Place in Town*. Dr McConnell reviewed the progress made on the three strategic initiatives that were adopted in May 2017: (1) *Creating A Compelling Sunday Morning Experience*, (2) *Making Church of the Palms a Household Name*, and (3) *Providing a Holistic Ministry*. He also provided a preview of plans for the coming Fall-Winter season. The three strategic initiatives will continue to be the focus for this year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: For the June Session dinner, complete *Blood Done Sign My Name* by Timothy B. Tyson.

There being no further business to come before the Session, **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED:**
To adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:40 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)

Foundation – Memorial Garden – Restricted Funds Distribution Request
(completed form to be attached after action by the Foundation)