

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 *Dangerous Wonder: The Adventure of a Childlike Faith* by Michael Yaconelli. The elders and staff then moved to Room 206 of the Education Building for the Session meeting that began at 6:55 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, Sandy Snyder, 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: Ruling Elders Jane Delgado Semidei and Tom Taylor.

QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER: A quorum was established. Dr. McConnell served as Moderator, called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To approve the Agenda for the Meeting with the addition of an item under New Business regarding a Foundation Grant Request, and a motion to go into Executive Session.**

STORYTELLING – Pastor Hmingi Browne opened the meeting with her story – *My life’s a football and God’s a big foot*. Prayers were said for the storyteller.

STAFF REPORTS:

Music Director Genevieve Beauchamp:

- December is a big month for music – Messiah, children’s pageant, several caroling groups.

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

- Appreciation to the Congregational Care ministry members
- Recruiting for additional Stephen Ministers
- Thank you for a wonderful 5 years at COP!

Executive Director of Ministries Laurie Haas:

- Passed ordination exams!
- Working on hiring a youth director is moving forward – there is a viable candidate.
- Bill Mallett – Created a *Christmas for Sarasota* Facebook page – to promote various Christmas services to draw people in. As they attend, visitors get a handout for what is coming up in January. There has been a lot of interest.

Executive Director of Operations Pam Gillespie:

- Sanctuary roof should be completed 3-4 weeks from today. Crushed shell parking lot will be available in time for the Messiah.
- Sarah and Jackie are working on the refreshed design for the website.
- Shared the new church logo.

Equipping Director Carolyn Wilson:

- Good Fall for classes and events – Exodus event attracted 150 people.
- Connect 101 has started for new members. Behind the scenes tour of the church campus. Very well received. The goal to have each member get involved in one thing. Designed to make a big church feel smaller. Building relationships.
- Music of Christmas is the theme on Wednesdays for Advent season.

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 – Elder Commissioners appointed to attend the November 16 Presbytery meeting were: Bob Baarson, Linda Getzen, Wayne Kindt and Pat Kindt (subbing for Jane Semidei).
- Reminder – December Session meeting is a week EARLY – December 18.
- **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To receive the November New Member Class (7 members, 1 affiliate) - see list on page 2 of the Clerk's Report.**

FINANCIAL UPDATE: In the absence of the Administration and Finance Committee Chair, Director Gillespie reported:

- See page 15 of Session package for detailed report.
- Ended October \$14 270 short of contribution revenue goal. Revenue goal missed earlier due to Hurricane Irma Sunday closure has not been made up. Should make the November revenue goal. \$420,000 needed to make budgeted revenue goal.
- Administration & Finance Committee is reviewing the 2018 budget. 2018 revenue goal is \$2.7 million. More complete information will be available in December.
- Food Pantry offering \$21,000 to date – has met the Foundation match of \$20,000,

OMNIBUS MOTION:

MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To set aside for discussion or clarification, item B.4. 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 B.4., as presented in the Agenda.

A. To APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:

1. Stated Session Meeting – 10/23/17

B. TO APPROVE THE CLERK'S REPORT:

1. Assignments and Meetings:
 - a. Sunday Morning Prayers with the Pastors – Month of December – Bob Baarson
 - c. Session Meeting Storyteller – 12/18/17 – Marty Guice
 - d. Diaconate Exec. Comm. Meeting – 12/4/17 – 7 PM - Jane Semidei
 - e. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members – 12/10/17 – Group 4 Elders (Robin Segó, Sandy Snyder, Tom Taylor) 11 AM Chapel Narthex
2. Membership Statistics (items 2-4 see attached Clerk's Report)
3. Baptisms & Weddings
4. Home Communion – *approved separately below*

C. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:

1. Elder attending Deacons' Diaconate meeting in November – Tom Taylor
2. Commissioners attending the Presbytery Meeting on November 16 – Linda Getzen

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 Mission Partners – Co-Chs. Jane Delgado Semidei and Dotti Tyle
3. Personnel – 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) – Exec. Dir. Laurie Haas – *see staff report 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
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
3. Nominating – Ch. Robin Segó

ITEMS FROM OMNIBUS SET ASIDE FOR CLARIFICATION OR DISCUSSION:

Item B.4. - Home Communion. – Elder Snyder reported the Home Communion count for November was 30. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To receive Omnibus Motion item B.4, as revised.** The Clerk will revise the Clerk’s Report to add the November Home Communion Count.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Building Committee – Update by Elder Reynolds. He explained the two contingency funds used on the Palms Center project. On schedule for March 8 completion. Tentatively shooting for a grand opening on Palms Sunday March 24.
2. Update on Allocation of Disaster Relief Funds – Dr. McConnell and Elder Tyle reported. Follow-up from October Session meeting. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To approve the distribution of the remaining Disaster Relief Funds of approximately \$19,600 as follows** [summary of email previously provided by Elder Semidei]:
 - a. **\$5,000 for the outside walk-in freezer for mission partner Mision Peniel. [See discussion of freezer under New Business below].**
 - b. **\$6,000 to mission partner AGAPE, that has run 4 trips to Aquadilla, Puerto Rico and sent 1 sea container delivering a total of \$32,867 lbs. of love to benefit the people of Puerto Rico living in the cities and villages especially hard to reach and hit severely by Hurricane Maria. The goods included generators, chainsaws, non-perishable food, solar lights, water purification tablets, Sawyer water filtration systems, diapers, baby food/formulas, tarps, personal care items, gas cans and cleaning supplies. These supplies were delivered to on the ground missionaries helping people in these areas including folks from several churches. There are also hurricane relief efforts underway to the area of Guantanamo, Cuba. AGAPE has secured additional supplies and they hope to make one additional flight run that would cost about \$12,000. They would be most appreciative if we could donate half of that cost.**

- c. **\$3,000 to Temple Sinai our religious partner on Lockwood Ridge Rd. They've been collaborating with several community based organizations that are assisting various neighborhoods with Irma relief efforts. They are more knowledgeable about the specific needs, so funds will be sent directly to Temple Sinai and they will decide how the funds should be distributed.**
- d. **\$2,000 to ECHO in North Fort Myers for Hurricane Irma relief. These funds would make a valuable contribution to their ongoing efforts to revive the spaces used to train missionaries and community volunteers from 165 countries on how to grow food with less than ideal conditions.**
- e. **\$3600 (remaining funds) to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance specifically earmarked for Harvey and Irma relief.**

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Budget Review – See Financial Update above.
2. Foundation Grant Request – Presented by Elder Tyle. The proposed Grant Request from the Global Mission Partners Committee will provide funding for an outside walk-in freezer at Mision Peniel in Immokalee. The Foundation wants to be involved in hurricane relief efforts in a concrete way. Dr. McConnell contact the Presbytery about options. Mision Peniel incurred major damage from Hurricane Irma and lost many resources to provide to the neediest in the farm worker community. The total cost of the project is \$25,000, of which \$5000 has already been allocated from congregational donations to the church Disaster Relief funds. The amount requested from the Foundation is \$20,000. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED and PASSED: To approve submission to the Foundation of the Global Partners Committee's Grant Request for \$20,000 funding for the Immokalee freezer.**
3. Foundation Director - The Clerk asked about the annual election of a Session representative to the Foundation. Elder Petro is on the Foundation and will follow up.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To enter Executive Session at 8:15 PM. Personnel updates were presented by Dr. McConnell and discussed. No action was taken; therefore, no separate minutes were taken. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To exit Executive Session at 8:50 PM.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Reading for December Session dinner – *Stories Jesus Tells – The Parables* by John Claypool - Chapters 1&2 [Book is on its way – check your church mail boxes!]

There being no further business to come before the Session, **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To adjourn the meeting** at approximately 8:52 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 Grant Request Form for Immokalee freezer (will be attached after complete form is returned by the Foundation)