

Due to the COVID-19 virus pandemic, the elders and staff met via a video conference Session meeting that began at 7:00 PM.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Teaching Elders: Senior Pastor The Rev. Dr. Stephen D. McConnell (Moderator) and Family Life Pastor The Rev. Laurie Haas. Ruling Elders: Marcia Baarson, Linda Calvert, Diane Curtis, Gerry Hailey, Andrea Jackson, Maxine Perry, Steve Rowe, Sandi Stewart, Matthew Straeb, and Pam Williams. Clerk to the Session Linda Getzen, Executive Director of Operations Pam Gillespie, Music Director Genevieve Beauchamp, and Director of Ministry & Mission Sarah Soboleski.

EXCUSED: Congregational Life Pastor The Rev. Dr. Lal Hmingliani Browne (on sabbatical) and Ruling Elder Jeanne Asakura.

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 a devotion based on Matthew 4:35, Jesus in the middle of our boat, and with prayer. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To approve the Agenda for the Meeting.**

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:

- **MOTION MADE SECONDED AND PASSED: To receive into membership the following who attended one of Pastor Laurie's recent New Member Classes: Ronald G. Bovin and Douglas K. Soles.**

STAFF REPORTS:

Family Life Pastor The Rev. Laurie Haas:

- Conducting new member classes with valuable help from Elder Linda Calvert.
- Making hospital visits with seminarian Genevieve Beauchamp.
- Preached at 1st Presbyterian Church, Sarasota last Sunday, to provide respite to the serving interim pastor.
- Director of Family and Student Ministries Conor Peters has started. Worship Under the Stars for the youth ministry was held last night in the Chapel (weather).
- Attended a Faith Formation retreat last week.
- Senior Well-Being project. Ruling Elder Pam Williams reported. Pam is working with Health & Well-Being Director Susan Neisler. Meeting with focus groups to identify needs. The first group to meet was made up of singles in the age 70-80 range.

Executive Director of Operations Pam Gillespie:

- See written report beginning on page 10 of Session package.
- Provided an update from the Food Scarcity Team about efforts to assist Northminster Presbyterian Church with the startup of their Food Pantry.
- The new sound system in the Chapel is up and running.

Music Director Genevieve Beauchamp:

- Sarasota Music Conservatory student musicians will be performing the prelude about once a month during services.

- The Chancel Choir is eager to resume rehearsals later in the summer.
- Our second set of handbells is on loan to Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church. They have a new music director.
- Hospital visitations have been meaningful.

Director of Ministry & Mission Sarah Soboleski:

- Analytics – Total church attendance continues upward - in-person and online. Discussion re technical issues with bulk emails sending the Devotions - being blocked.
- Personnel – Working with a group to review the employee evaluation process.

Senior Pastor The Rev. Dr. Stephen D McConnell:

- Sarah Soboleski has a new title as Director of Ministry & Mission. She will continue to work with Communications. She will also be working with Executive Director Pam Gillespie in Operations.
- August 23 – The Session returns to in-person meetings with dinner. Discussion will be based on the book *How to Fight Racism* by Jemar Tisby.
- Work on the Strategic Plan continues. Update planned for August Session meeting.
- The newly rededicated Chapel is in use.
- Seminarians Genevieve Beauchamp and Sarah Soboleski will be preaching on July 11 and July 25, respectively. He is grateful for their work in pastoral care while Dr. Browne is on her sabbatical.
- Visitation Pastor Alan Rodda has been in the hospital, but is out, doing well, and plans to return to work next week.
- Seminarian friend Stuart Broberg is new to our area and will be helping with pastoral care and other matters over the next few weeks.
- The Comcast television contract for Sunday worship services will be up for renewal. Over the summer, this will be reviewed in light of advances made in the church's online presence.

FINANCIAL UPDATE: Administration and Finance Chair Andrea Jackson reported: Church finances continue to be very favorable. Prayers for Andrea as she recovers from multiple rock climbing injuries.

OMNIBUS MOTION: PASSED WITHOUT OBJECTION: The following Omnibus Motion (Items A-F) as presented in the Agenda.

A. TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:

1. Stated Session Meeting: 05/24/2021

B. TO APPROVE THE CLERK'S REPORT:

1. Assignments and Meetings:
 - a. Sunday Morning Prayers with the Pastors Month of July (*please meet with the pastors in Sr. Pastor's office on Sundays at 8:20 AM*): **Matthew Straeb**
 - b. Sunday Morning Prayers with the Pastors: Month of August (*please meet with the pastors in Sr. Pastor's office on Sundays at 8:20 AM*): **Pam Williams**
 - d. Deacons' Exec. Comm. meeting: Mon. August 2 (no July meeting) at 7 PM
Chapel Reception Room: *Vacancy - no elder assigned*
2. Membership Statistics, Baptisms & Weddings, Home Communion (see attached Clerk's Report).

C. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:

1. Elder attending Deacons' Exec. Comm. meeting in June: Jeanne Asakura

D. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM SESSION COMMITTEES:

1. Administration and Finance: Ch. Andrea Jackson (includes Building and Grounds Team)
2. Global Partners Mission: Ch. Matthew Straeb
3. Personnel: Ch. Diane Curtis

E. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM MINISTRY TEAMS:

1. Family & Student Ministries (includes Palms Preschool) *See staff reports above*
2. Contemporary Worship Service Leadership *No written report this month*
3. Presbyterian Women *No written report this month*
4. Stephen Ministry Leadership

F. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM CONGREGATION COMMITTEES:

1. Deacons' Executive Committee: Ch. Elizabeth Dexter
2. Memorial Garden Board: Ch. Paul Nielsen *See also New Business below*
3. Nominating: Ch. Marcia Baarson

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Memorial Garden Board Bylaw changes. Pam Gillespie reported. The proposed changes better define those green areas of the church campus that are maintained by the Memorial Garden Board. Property Manager James Thompson works closely with the Memorial Garden Board. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To approve the changes to the Memorial Garden Board Bylaws.**
2. High School Graduating Seniors. Rev. Haas reported. A group of graduating seniors will be attending a retreat on Anna Maria Island July 10-11. Request for communion. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To approve the service of communion at this retreat on July 10.** The Rev. Laurie Haas will preside.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Continued prayers for Don Stewart and Andrea Jackson as they heal, and for Day of Hope.

There being no further business to come before the Session, **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To adjourn the meeting** at approximately 7:56 PM with a closing prayer by Rev. Haas.

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

By: _____
Linda R. Getzen
Clerk to the Session

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