

FELLOWSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Stephen D. McConnell welcomed the elders and staff members at 6:00 PM in the Chapel Reception Room for dinner and discussion about the health of mainline Protestantism and the recent PCUSA General Assembly. The elders and staff then moved to Room 206 of the Education Building for the Session meeting that began at 7:00 PM.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Teaching Elders: Senior Pastor The Rev. Dr. Stephen D. McConnell (Moderator), Congregational Life Pastor The Rev. Dr. Lal Hmingliani Browne, and Family Life Pastor The Rev. Laurie Haas. Ruling Elders: Jeanne Asakura, Lesley Conzelman, Diane Curtis, Andrea Jackson, Andrew McFall, Maxine Perry, Steve Rowe, Sandi Stewart, Dimitrios Vafeas, 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:** Darrel Jordan and Marlene Petro.

QUORUM, CALL TO ORDER, AND OPENING PRAYER: 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 as amended to include an item Old Business.** The Moderator opened the meeting with prayer.

STORYTELLER: Pam Williams told her story: "Why did I say yes?" Prayers were said for the storyteller.

CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS: *The Clerk to the Session sends emails to Staff and Elders about pertinent correspondence received between Session Meetings.* The Clerk identified two revisions to the Clerk's Report to be approved under the Omnibus Motion below.

STAFF REPORTS:

Music Director Genevieve Beauchamp:

- Choirs: The summer choir is doing great. The Chancel Choir will restart rehearsals shortly.
- Congregational Care: Genevieve finds herself growing in this ministry area.

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

- All is well in Congregational Care
- 15 new church members received in July/August.
- Home communion has resumed with in-person visits by elders and deacons, although some prefer no visits or wish to participate via the TV and live stream services.
- Small groups are being reorganized for the Wednesday night classes.
- Tatiana Stevens led well-received mindfulness meditation classes, which may continue.
- Pastor Hmingi and Eric Jason are co-leading a grief support group.
- Shepherding Deacon flocks are being reorganized.

Director of Ministry & Mission Sarah Soboleski:

- Corrected attendance/participation dashboard was distributed to the Session.
- Viewership of the "daily" devotions has grown.
- Latest Connect magazine is out with a revised format - shorter text and more visuals.
- Global Mission Partners Committee has a new student member.
- Tutoring Ministry: 60 tutors have enlisted. New coordinator Corrine is doing well.

- Mentoring by Pam Gillespie as Sarah transitions into the Executive Director role.

Executive Director of Operations Pam Gillespie:

- Working with Sarah Soboleski and Terry Lamberson to complete the transition with her upcoming retirement.

Family Life Pastor The Rev. Laurie Haas:

- Family Ministry: 60+ students participated in Sunday night *After Hours* in the Palms Center led by Conor Peters.
- Children’s Ministry: Carol Homeister had a flock of children participating on Sunday.
- Palms Preschool: Short a teacher. Director Sandy Shockley is filling in for now.
- Palms Center: The schedule is full. Susan Neisler left the Palms Center in good order.
- Revised Sunday Worship schedule: A work in progress that will begin on September 11. Flexibility is needed so the preaching pastor can deliver the sermon early in the Contemporary Service and then walk over to give the sermon in the Sanctuary. Timing will involve a bit of reorganization of the Contemporary Service format. Pastor Laurie envisages that the Contemporary Service might serve communion weekly. She asked for Session approval. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED BY CONSENSUS: To approve for the Contemporary Service the serving of communion on the customary first Sunday of the month and on additional Sundays during each month as may be planned.**

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

- No additional report other than agenda items below.

FINANCIAL UPDATE: Administration and Finance Chair Andrea Jackson reported:

- Will be working with incoming Chair Dimitrios Vafeas, Sarah Soboleski, and Terry Lamberson to transition as Andrea’s term as A&F Chair winds down.
- Finances: See detail on page 15 of the Session package. As predicted, contributions have slowed, and expenses have increased. Not running the large surpluses of past years. A&F is paying close attention.
- Capital Improvements: Inflation and other matters are causing higher costs. Various items on the capital improvements schedule may be re-evaluated.

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: 06/27/2022
2. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members: 07/05/2022
3. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members: 08/07/2022

B. TO APPROVE THE CLERK’S REPORT:

1. Assignments and Meetings:
 - a. Sunday Morning Prayers for the Pastors: Month of September: **Darrel Jordan**
 - b. Deacons’ Exec. Comm. Meeting on Monday 09/12 @ 7 PM: **Maxine Perry**
 - c. Storyteller for September Session meeting: **Jeanne Asakura**
2. Membership Statistics, Baptisms & Weddings, and Home Communion (see attached Clerk’s Report, *as revised*)

C. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:

1. Elder attending Deacons’ Exec. Comm. meeting in August: **Dimitrios Vafeas**
2. Commissioner attending the Presbytery Meeting in July: *No written report*

D. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM SESSION COMMITTEES:

1. Administration and Finance: Ch. Andrea Jackson (includes Building and Grounds Team)
2. Global Mission Partners: Ch. Lesley Conzelman
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. Judy Armitage *No written report this month*
3. Nominating: Ch. Marlene Petro *No written report this month*

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Boy Scouts Liaison. A request was received from the Boy Scout troop that meets on the church campus to appoint a replacement liaison. This is a position required by the Boy Scouts. Church member Charles Wright has volunteered to serve. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To appoint Charles Wright as the Chartered Organization Representative to the Boy Scouts.**

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Hospitality, Health & Well-Being Plans: The Moderator reported on the staff transitions over the last months:
 - a. Impending retirement of Pam Gillespie as Executive Director for Operations. So incredibly grateful for her ministry. She is transitioning responsibilities to Sarah Soboleski and Finance Director Terry Lamberson.
 - b. Retirement of Linda Evans as Director of Tutoring. Corinne Boot-Hanford has been hired recently for that position.
 - c. Departure of Susan Neisler (she left to work in a family business) as Health & Well-Being Director. Sarah Soboleski and Pastor Laurie reported that a job description had been created for a part-time Palms Center coordinator position. Interviews have been scheduled. The Senior Well-Being part of Susan's job is on hold for the short term.
 - d. Departure of Kathleen Seah from the church front office. Sarah Soboleski reported that a job description for a full-time position had been posted, and interviews have been scheduled. A hospitality component has been added to this job.
 - e. Sadly, Food Ministry Coordinator Kathy Robinett's assistant and friend Veronica Posey died. In time, Kathy will be considering a replacement assistant.
2. Terms of Call for New Pastors: Pastoral Candidates Genevieve Beauchamp and Sarah Soboleski were excused from the remainder of the meeting. The Moderator reviewed the upcoming dates in the pastoral call process, all subject to the customary Presbyterian "if the way be clear" condition at each stage:
 - September 27: Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry will examine the Candidates.
 - October 11: Presbytery's Committee on Ministry will examine the Candidates.
 - October 15: Candidates will be examined by the body of Peace River Presbytery.

Pam Gillespie and Personnel Committee Chair Diane Curtis reported that the Terms of Call as presented for the Candidates for the two Associate Pastor positions are recommended by the Personnel Committee. Because no Associate Pastor Nominating Committee was required to be elected for this internal search process, the Session has functioned as needed in that capacity, and the Terms of Call (attached to official minutes) come to the Session for approval. Each Call will be effective upon ordination and installation, and Peace River Presbytery will be asked to concur with the call. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and UNANIMOUSLY PASSED: To approve the Terms of Call for Genevieve Beauchamp and Sarah Soboleski as Associate Pastors, as presented.**

3. Call of Special Congregational Meeting: The Moderator explained that the Terms of Call for the Candidates must come before the congregation for a vote. He recommended that a special congregational meeting be called for October 30 at 10 AM. Both Candidates will preach “mini” sermons on that day. “If the way be clear,” one Candidate will be ordained and installed in December, and one Candidate will be ordained and installed in January, as per their preference. **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To call a special meeting of the Congregation for Sunday, October 30, 2022, at 10:00 AM, in the Sanctuary, for the purpose of acting upon the Terms of Call of Genevieve Beauchamp and Sarah Soboleski as Associate Pastors, and to direct that notice of the meeting be announced from the pulpit on consecutive Sundays and placed in churchwide communications.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Questions asked:
 - a. Status of the church organ repair/replacement. A small group continues its research.
 - b. Where can a church member find a list of currently serving Elders and Deacons? That list can be found on the church website.
 - c. Report about the summer internship program. Pastor Laurie confirmed that the report would be before the Session at the September meeting.
2. Moderator’s update on the \$100,000 capital improvement gift anonymously made to the presbytery by COP and the Foundation. All funds have been fully distributed throughout the presbytery through its grant-making process. The Moderator will provide an update at the September Session meeting.
3. Elder Andrew McFall announced that the Men’s Breakfast is back with good food and fellowship. The first breakfast is on October 1 in the Campus Center. The speaker will be Greg Mulhollen, head coach of the Sarasota High baseball team.

There being no further business to come before the Session, **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED: To adjourn the meeting** at approximately 8:50 PM to a Circle of Prayer with laying on of hands for Executive Director of Operations **Pam Gillespie**, who is retiring after a long career of wise counsel and devoted service to churches. Congratulations Pam!!!!

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

By: _____
Linda R. Getzen
Clerk to the Session

Attachment to official minutes:
Clerk’s Report (statistics)
Proposed Terms of Call for Candidates