

### FELLOWSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Stephen D. McConnell welcomed the elders and staff members at 6:00 PM in the Campus Center for dinner and a discussion of Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's video talk: *Life After Death: Jesus, Judaism, and Justice*. 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 Life Pastor The Rev. Dr. Lal Hmingliani Browne. Ruling Elders: Jeanne Asakura, Lesley Conzelman, Diane Curtis, Andrea Jackson, Darrel Jordan, Andrew McFall, Marlene Petro, and Dimitrios Vafeas. Also present: Clerk to the Session Linda Getzen, Music Director Genevieve Beauchamp, and. **EXCUSED:** Family Life Pastor The Rev. Laurie Haas, Ruling Elders: Maxine Perry, Steve Rowe, Sandi Stewart, and Pam Williams; and Director of Ministry & Mission Sarah Soboleski.

**QUORUM, CALL TO ORDER, AND OPENING PRAYER:** A quorum was established. Dr. McConnell served as Moderator. He called the meeting to order and opened it with prayer. **Motion, made, seconded, and unanimously passed: To approve the Agenda for the Meeting.**

**STORYTELLER:** Andrea Jackson told her story about her amazing mother, who was "Gammy" to the legions of friends and family who adored her. Prayers were given for the storyteller.

**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 candidates for ordination Genevieve Beauchamp and Sarah Soboleski will be examined by the Committee on Ministry on November 1 and by the Presbytery on November 12. Four elder commissioners were needed for the rescheduled Stated Meeting of the Presbytery on November 12.

### STAFF REPORTS:

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

- All is well in Congregational Care. Visitation Pastors Mel Christian and Stu Broberg are wonderful additions to the crew.
- Quarterly Shepherding Deacons meeting held on 09/24.
- 55 nominees sought for the Shepherding Deacons Class of 2026.
- 12 new members in September and October
- Helen Watrous won the Chili Cook-Off! 37 chefs and 300+ eaters
- The search is on for 100 pies!

Music Director Genevieve Beauchamp:

- The Chancel choir is growing. They are a family of friends. Twenty-one choir singers participated in former choir member Donna Lowry's memorial service.
- The Noontime concert series is beginning
- Judy Lutz will lead the seasonal Cantori Choir once again.
- SYV travels to Scotland this summer
- Very witty Children's Moment on Sunday, Genevieve!

- The presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry has examined her. Two more steps to go until ordination!

**FINANCIAL UPDATE:** Administration and Finance Chair Andrea Jackson reported. Due to communication outages caused by Hurricane Ian, there was no Administration & Finance Committee meeting in October. Finances are "flat" for September.

**OMNIBUS MOTION:**

*Notes for information from the Clerk: The 09/26/2022 Session meeting was canceled due to Hurricane Ian. The 2021 Audit has yet to be accepted in final form by the Administration and Finance Committee, so reference to that action in the Omnibus Motion was removed before voting. It was noted that the men's breakfast in the announcement section of the August 22 minutes was canceled due to Hurricane Ian. Motion, made, seconded, and unanimously passed: To pass the following Omnibus Motion (Items A-F), presented in the Agenda.*

**A. TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:**

1. Stated Session Meeting: 08/22/2022
2. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members: 09/13/2022
3. Special Session Meeting re Presbyterian Disaster Relief: 10/05/2022
4. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members: 10/12/2022

**B. TO APPROVE THE CLERK'S REPORT:**

1. Assignments and Meetings:
  - a. Sunday Morning Prayers for the Pastors: Month of November: Marlene Petro
  - b. Deacons' Exec. Comm. Meeting on Monday 11/07, 7 PM: Sandi Stewart
  - c. Storyteller for November Session meeting: Jeanne Asakura
2. Membership Statistics, Baptisms & Weddings, and Home Communion (see attached Clerk's Report)
3. Appointment of Elder Commissioners to the Peace River Presbytery Stated meeting (rescheduled to Saturday, November 12 at Cypress Lake PC, Ft. Myers). To serve until the next appointment of elder commissioners. The Clerk is authorized to complete the appointment of elder commissioners in the event of a vacancy:
  1. Jeanne Asakura
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
  4. \_\_\_\_\_

**C. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:**

1. Elders attending Deacons' Exec. Comm. meetings in September (Maxine Perry) and October (Darrel Jordan)

**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
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. Report on Summer Interns. Andrew McFall reported. The “Boston” designated fund at the Foundation provided scholarship funds for two summer interns, Alex and Marlow. Both interns reported enjoying their experience with the staff and being able to use their talents in different areas of service. Rev. Laurie Haas and Student Ministry Director Conor Peters offered valuable feedback on the internships in their report to the Foundation. Thought will be given to having one intern in the spring and another in the summer.
2. Update on Hurricane Relief. Dr. McConnell reported how COP staff and volunteer resources of time, treasure, and talents continue to aid several churches and their communities in the south-central part of the presbytery damaged by Hurricane Ian.

## NEW BUSINESS:

1. Foundation Grant Request – Hurricane Ian Relief. Dr. McConnell reported on this request from the staff. In response to the devastation left behind by Hurricane Ian, Church of the Palms provides financial and volunteer assistance to local churches, mission partners, and individuals. Global Mission funds have been allocated to partners. Food Pantry funds are being released to areas and ministries needing food. It is anticipated that much more will be needed. The request to the Foundation will supplement what has been received from the congregation (\$25K to date). Assistance is necessary for: local congregations to continue ministry and to repair structures, local mission partners, and food banks, and to supplement work crews assisting homeowners. **Motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed: To approve submission to the Foundation of the Grant Request for \$125,000.00 for Hurricane Ian Relief**
2. Foundation Grant Request – Montreat Capital Campaign. Dr. McConnell reported on this request from the staff. Montreat Conference Center in North Carolina is in a capital campaign to raise money for a badly needed addition to their campus – a residential lodge. For many years, numerous COP staff, members, and children have cherished their Montreat experiences. **Motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed: To approve submission to the Foundation of the Grant Request for \$50,000.00 for the Montreat capital campaign.**
3. Foundation Grant Request – Samaritan Counseling Grant Writer. Dr. McConnell reported on this request from Samaritan Counseling Services for funds to cover the cost of hiring a freelance professional grant writer for three years. With the growing number of people seeking mental health services from Samaritan, they must raise additional funds to cover the cost of providing needed services. A professional grant writer is anticipated to help increase the funds received through grants by a minimum of 50%. The request is for \$100,000 to be paid over three years. **Motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed: To approve submission to the Foundation of the Grant Request for \$100,000.00 for Samaritan Counseling Services for a professional grant writer.**
4. Exceeding the Foundation Annual Guideline. Elder Andrea Jackson, a director of the Foundation, indicated that, if granted, the Foundation might wish to accelerate all or part of the second payment (approximately \$33,333) of the above Samaritan Counseling grant so that it falls within the 2022 calendar year. This acceleration might cause the Foundation to exceed its 2022 distribution guidelines. Under the Foundation bylaws, distributions from unrestricted funds in excess of the annual distribution guideline may be made upon the approval of 75% of those directors of the Foundation present at a meeting and 75% of those Session members present at

a meeting, voting in separate actions. In anticipation of this need for flexibility: **Motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed: To approve funding of authorized grant requests that may exceed the 2022 guidelines in a total amount of up to \$20,000.00.**

5. Amended Call of Special Congregational Meeting: At the 08/24/2022 Session meeting, the Moderator explained that the Terms of Call for the Candidates must come before the congregation for a vote. At that meeting, a motion was passed to call the congregational meeting for October 30. However, the destruction caused by Hurricane Ian disrupted the examination schedule for the ordination candidates such that the congregation meeting must be changed to accommodate the new schedule. **Motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed: To reschedule the call of the special meeting of the Congregation to the new date and time of Sunday, November 27, 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. The annual Advent dinner benefiting Samaritan Counseling will be held at COP on December 2 at 5:30 in the Campus Center. Tickets are available.
2. Reading for the next Session discussion: *Let Your Life Speak* by Parker Palmer.
3. A baptism scheduled for 10/03 did not take place. This will be noted in the next Clerk's Report.
4. Dr. McConnell was asked to provide an update on the new Sunday worship schedule at the next Session meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Session, **Motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed: To adjourn the meeting** at approximately 8:28 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 – Hurricane Ian Relief
- Foundation Grant Request – Montreat capital campaign
- Foundation Grant Request – Samaritan Counseling grant writer  
(completed forms will be attached to minutes after the Foundation acts)