

### FELLOWSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Stephen D. McConnell welcomed the Session at 6:00 PM in the Campus Center for dinner and discussion based on Chapter 1 of *Short Stories by Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine. The Session then moved to the Chapel Reception Room for the Session meeting that began at 6:50 PM.

### MINUTES

**PRESENT:** Teaching Elders: Senior Pastor The Rev. Dr. Stephen D. McConnell (Moderator), Congregational Life Pastor The Rev. Dr. Lal Hmingliani Browne, Executive Pastor The Rev. Sarah Soboleski, and Pastor of Music and Worship The Rev. Genevieve Beauchamp. Ruling Elders: Linda Calvert, Lesley Conzelman, Diane Curtis, Al Jeffrey, Keith Maddox, Andrew McFall, Fee Mercer, Maxine Perry, Marlene Petro, Steve Rowe, and Dimitrios Vafeas. Also present: Clerk to the Session Linda Getzen.  
**EXCUSED:** Family Life Pastor The Rev. Laurie Haas (on sabbatical).

**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 by consent: To approve the Agenda for the Meeting, as amended to add an item of New Business.**

**STORYTELLER:** Lesley Conzelman told her story – *It all began in Canada....* 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:

- Status of Foundation Restricted Funds Request – Additional Summer Intern: Approved by the Foundation.
- Status of Foundation Restricted Funds Request – Seminary Student: Approved by the Foundation.
- **Motion made, seconded, and passed unanimously: To add Linda Calvert and Lesley Conzelman as additional Ruling Elders for special session meetings called by Pastor Hmingi to receive new member classes.** [Note from the Clerk: Adds 2 elders to the motion passed last month].
- Update on Conor Peters – The Presbytery received him on May 18 as an Inquirer!
- Ruling Elder Commissioner Keith Maddox reported his impressions of the Presbytery meeting. See also the written report received in the Omnibus Motion.

### STAFF REPORTS:

Pastor of Music and Worship The Rev. Genevieve Beauchamp:

- Choir season is wrapping up. Best year ever - morale is excellent! The choir went on an outing to see The Man of La Mancha performance,
- The summer choir begins in June.
- SYV is heading to Scotland in June. A farewell concert will be performed on June 20.

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

- Congregational Care - all is well.

- 35 people attended the wine-tasting event hosted by the Brownes and led by Steve Soboleski.
- 3 new members were received in May.
- 45 attended the Presbyterian Women's luncheon last Saturday.
- Deacons are doing well.
- Visitation Pastor Melvin Christian continues to be gratefully received on his pastoral visits. Visitation pastor Stu Broberg is currently away in South America.
- The search is on for Pastor Hmingi's new Administrative Assistant.
- Wednesday Night programs are ending for the summer. The lessons on the Book of Mark led by Pastor Steve were well attended (295 avg – in person and online) and well received.

Executive Pastor The Rev. Sarah Soboleski:

- Staff – Continuing the 90-day check-in with staff to review job descriptions and goals. Interviews begin again for an Administrative Assistant for Pastor Hmingi. There was a Staff Fun Day last week. Sadly, Operations Director James Thompson is moving to Indiana to be near family – his COP family will miss him!
- Mission Partners – she and others will visit the Immokalee migrant worker area this week. An additional advocate has been added for Misi3n Peniel, and there is also a new advocate for Habitat for Humanity. The donation drive for Second Heart Homes was very successful.
- Interfaith Relations – a book club is being developed with members from Temple Sinai.
- Finance – review of 2023 finances to date is underway.

Family Life Pastor The Rev. Laurie Haas:

- On sabbatical.

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

- Pastor Laurie's sabbatical continues – about 100+ miles into her hike in Italy.
- 2 new summer interns were welcomed. Farewell to spring intern Ava Epstein who did an excellent job planning yesterday's rodeo-themed student event.
- Race & The Church small group book discussion continues on May 31. The Foundation approved the civil rights tour seed money. Further planning for the tour is on hold until Pastor Laurie returns from sabbatical.
- Foundation grant for the Faith & Society Speaker series will fund four speakers this fall/winter.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE:** Administration and Finance Chair Dimitrios Vafeas reported:

- 120+ attended last night's rodeo-themed event! Many rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders were there.
- Marc Miller is a new member of the Administration & Finance Committee.
- Starting the 2022 audit process
- The church balance sheet is in a strong position. There is a current surplus of \$390K – lower expenses, and the annual giving gap is closing.
- Waiting to hear about the cost of property insurance. Expecting a significant increase in cost.
- \$1 million in funds have been reallocated among financial institutions for protection,

**OMNIBUS MOTION:**

**Motion made, seconded, and passed unanimously: To pass the following Omnibus Motion (Items A-F).**

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

1. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members: 03/13/2023 [omitted from April Session package].

2. Stated Session Meeting: 04/24/2023
  3. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members: 05/16/2023
- B. TO APPROVE THE CLERK'S REPORT:**
1. Assignments and Meetings:
    - a. Sunday Morning Prayers for the Pastors @ 8:15 Amin Pastor Steve's office:  
Month of June: Andrew McFall
    - b. Deacons' Exec. Comm. Meeting on Monday 06/05/2023 @ 7 PM: Steve Rowe
    - d. Storyteller for June Session meeting: Marlene Petro
  2. Membership Statistics, Baptisms & Weddings, and Home Communion (see attached Clerk's Report)
- C. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:**
1. Elder attending Deacons' Exec. Comm. meeting in May: Andrew McFall
  2. Commissioner attending the Presbytery meeting on 5/18/2023: Keith Maddox
- D. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM SESSION COMMITTEES:**
1. Administration & Finance: Ch. Dimitrios Vafeas (includes Building & 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 *See staff reports above*
  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
  3. Nominating: Ch. Marlene Petro *No written report this month*

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Update on Strategic Priorities and Goals. Pastor Sarah prepared a PowerPoint presentation and led the Session discussion on the status of the 2022-23 Strategic Priorities (Increasing Sunday Attendance, Engaging Volunteers, Engagement in Well-Being Ministries, and Engagement in Digital Communications) and their Goals through the first quarter of 2023. Measuring and interpreting tangibles and intangibles for the Goals can be challenging. Overall, most of the Goals are being met or exceeded.
2. Walking Path Update. Pastor Sarah provided an update on the construction of the walking path on the "Back 40" of the church property. The labyrinth has been completed!

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Foundation Request for Restricted Funds Distribution - Memorial Garden. Pastor Steve reported that the Memorial Garden Board needs cash funds to replenish their operating account (\$13,126.50) and complete work on the granite wall expansion (\$6,873.50). **Motion made, seconded, and passed unanimously: To approve submission to the Foundation of the Restricted Funds Request for \$20,000.00 for the Memorial Garden Board.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. Resignation. Ruling Elder Darrel Jordan has submitted his resignation from the Session to the Clerk, which was accepted by the Session with much sadness. Prayers were asked for the Jordans during their time of discernment.
2. Reading for next meeting: Chapter 2 of *Short Stories by Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine.

There was no further business to come before the Session. **Motion made, seconded, and passed unanimously: To adjourn the meeting** at approximately 8:55 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 Request for Restricted Funds Distribution – Memorial Garden