

FELLOWSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Stephen D. McConnell welcomed the Session at 6:00 PM in the Campus Center for dinner and discussion about the parable of the Good Samaritan and Chapter 2, *Short Stories by Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine. The Session then moved to the Chapel Reception Room for the Session meeting that began at 6:55 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: Linda Calvert, Lesley Conzelman, Diane Curtis, Al Jeffrey, Keith Maddox, Andrew McFall, Fee Mercer, Maxine Perry, and Marlene Petro. Also present: Clerk to the Session Linda Getzen.

EXCUSED: Family Life Pastor The Rev. Laurie Haas, Executive Pastor The Rev. Sarah Soboleski, Pastor of Music and Worship The Rev. Genevieve Beauchamp, Ruling Elder Steve Rowe, and Ruling Elder Dimitrios Vafeas

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 unanimously: To approve the Agenda for the Meeting.**

STORYTELLER: Ruling Elder Marlene Petro told her story: *My "checkered" church history*. 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 – Memorial Garden: Approved by the Foundation.

STAFF REPORTS:

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

- Director of Student & Family Ministries Conor Peters and Director of Children's Ministry Carol Homeister are away leading high schoolers on a mission trip in Alaska. Earlier this summer, middle schoolers traveled to Ft. Myers to assist Praying Pelican Missions with hurricane relief efforts in that area. The student trip to Montreat is coming up on July 15.
- Day of Hope is July 15. More volunteers are needed.
- Director of Tutoring Corinne Boot-Handford leads this year's summer tutoring program with 48 tutors and 39-40 students enrolled.
- Pastor Laurie Haas continues on her sabbatical. Pastor Geneviève Beauchamp and organist Jonathan Spivey are on tour with Sarasota Young Voices in Scotland. Pastor Sarah Soboleski is in Italy.

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

- All is well in Congregational Life.
- New executive assistant Annie Marlow has started.
- Home communion visits are going well. Thank you to Elder Maxine Perry!

- Shepherding Deacons are gathering on Saturday – 65 have signed up.
- Stephen Ministers are caring for 45 care receivers.
- Visitation Pastor Melvin Christian is much beloved as he provides comforting congregational care and prayers to those in need.

FINANCIAL UPDATE: The Moderator reported in the absence of Administration and Finance Chair Dimitrios Vafeas:

- See the Session package for written reports from the Administration & Finance Committee and Executive Pastor Sarah Soboleski.
- A \$50,000 undesignated bequest was received in June.
- Information is being gathered for the annual audit.
- The church switched insurance carriers. The annual insurance cost came in under budget.
- YTD receipts are exceeding expenses. Strong cash position.

OMNIBUS MOTION:

Motion made, seconded, and passed by consensus: To pass the following Omnibus Motion (Items A-F), as presented in the Agenda.

- A. TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:**
1. Stated Session Meeting: 05/22/2023
 2. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members: 06/18/2023
- B. TO APPROVE THE CLERK’S REPORT:**
1. Assignments and Meetings:
 - a. Sunday Morning Prayers for the Pastors @ 8:15 AM: Month of July: Al Jeffrey (switch with Steve Rowe below)
 - b. Sunday Morning Prayers for the Pastors @ 8:15 AM: Month of July: Steve Rowe
 - c. Deacons’ Exec. Comm. Meeting on Monday 08/07/2023 @ 7 PM: Dimitrios Vafeas
 - d. Storyteller for August Session meeting: Laurie Haas
 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 June: Steve Rowe. *No written report this month*
- 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 *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
 3. Nominating: Ch. Marlene Petro *No written report this month*

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Staffing Update: Pastor Steve reported.
 - Operations Manager Director James Thompson’s last day with us is June 30. Facilities Manager Rick Dolega will serve as interim operations manager until a new Operations Manager is hired. Interviews are taking place.
 - Annie Marlow started as Administrative Assistant to Congregational Life.
 - Palms Preschool continues to adjust and provide hiring incentives to attract staff in a tight labor market.
 - Pastor Steve’s evaluation is tomorrow, led by Personnel Chair Diane Curtis.
2. Facilities Update: Pastor Steve reported.
 - The Back 40 Project – walking trail and labyrinth—is nearing completion.
 - An acoustical engineer has been contracted to advise on various design elements in the Sanctuary. A new organ is an anticipated future need.
 - Campus Center project meeting is scheduled for July 6 to continue planning for possible redesigns given the growing needs of the adjacent Food Pantry.
 - The Sunday nursery is overflowing with children. Space planning is underway!
 - The master plan developed several years ago is undergoing review and revamping in various areas. The Session will receive an update in August/September on progress in the Strategic Priorities & Goals. *[This part of the discussion continued during Announcements - added here for clarity]*. Grant requests are anticipated by the Foundation, particularly for capital expenses. The timing of this process is a little off this summer as Pastor Laurie is on sabbatical, and her input is critical to the discussions.
3. Changes to the Deacons’ Handbook: Pastor Hmingi reported. The Bylaws of the Board of Deacons have been updated - several post-Covid changes. **Motion made, seconded, and passed by consensus: To approve the Bylaws of the Board of Deacons as presented.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Day of Hope – More Ambassadors are needed – sign up to serve!
- Reading for August Session dinner: The Yeast Parable (Matthew 13:33). For those so inclined, in place of (or in addition to) reading Chapter 3 of *Short Stories by Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine, Pastor Steve will send out an email with alternative resources for the parable.

There was no further business to come before the Session. **Motion made, seconded, and passed unanimously: To adjourn the meeting** at approximately 8:15 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)