

FELLOWSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Stephen D. McConnell welcomed the elders and staff members at 6:00 PM in the Campus Center for dinner and small group discussion based on *Falling Upward* by Richard Rohr. There was also in depth discussion about the stated Mission, Vision, Strategic Focus, and Core Values of Church of the Palms – where we are hitting the mark and where we are missing the mark. The elders and staff then moved to Room 206 of the Education Building for the Session meeting that began at 7:45 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: Lesley Conzelman, Andrea Jackson, Darrel Jordan, Andrew McFall, Maxine Perry, Marlene Petro, 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: Jeanne Asakura and Diane Curtis

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: To approve the Agenda for the Meeting.**

STORYTELLER: Executive Director of Operations Pam Gillespie shared her story about her career of executive service to churches. Prayers were given for the storyteller and her upcoming retirement!

CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS: *The Clerk to the Session emails to Staff and Elders pertinent correspondence received between Session Meetings.* No additional announcements.

FINANCIAL UPDATE: Administration and Finance Chair Andrea Jackson reported: All is well (see summary by Executive Director at page 11 of Session packet).

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: 04/25/2022
2. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members: 05/04/2022
3. Special Session Meeting to Receive New Members: 05/11/2022

B. TO APPROVE THE CLERK'S REPORT:

1. Assignments and Meetings:
 - a. Sunday Morning Prayers for the Pastors: Month of June: Jeanne Asakura
 - b. Deacons' Exec. Comm. Meeting on Monday June 6, 7 PM: Jeanne Asakura
 - c. Storyteller for June Session meeting: Maxine Perry
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: Marlene Petro

D. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM SESSION COMMITTEES:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Attendance Metrics.** Thank you to Sarah Soboleski for the revised dashboard format (see page 25 of Session packet for April attendance summary).
2. **Status of Foundation Grant Request.** Foundation members on the Session reported that the Grant Request for educational funding for a seminarian was very favorably received by the Foundation. However, the seminarian has decided to take a gap year before starting seminary. Therefore, formal action by the Foundation has been postponed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Sunday Morning Schedule.** Dr. McConnell provided background on the varied Sunday worship services COP has had over the last many years, ending with the current model of 9 AM (traditional), 10 AM (contemporary) and 11 AM (traditional) services all having the same sermon message. Rev. Haas then reported on a proposal to enhance the Sunday morning experience to provide time for adult classes (of short duration) between services. The staff hopes to be able to present the new experience at the end of August. Discussion followed. The consensus of the Session was that they were open to adding the adult class experience to Sunday mornings. Rev. Haas and the staff were given approval to develop and implement a plan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dr. McConnell will send out a new reading for discussion at the June Session dinner.

There being no further business to come before the Session, **MOTION MADE, SECONDED, and PASSED:**
To adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:05 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)