

**Session Summary**  
**February 26, 2019 Session Meeting**

Following are **highlights** of the February 26, 2019 Session Meeting. *For further clarifications and/or questions, please feel free to contact one of the elders listed at the end of this summary.*

Following a delicious dinner provided by our cooking crew, Pastor Ray opened our meeting in prayer.

**Devotion and Prayer as a Session**

Pastor Henry began with a reading from 1 John 4 and then read from the book *My Bright Abyss* by Christian Wiman. He then went on to give some personal comments. Takeaways from the devotional time included: 1) Buy the book! (2) Christ is contingent. He changes with us. (3) Perfect love casts out fear; God is love.

**Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)**

Nurse Julie Ruchniewicz introduced the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) which was a “first read.” She explained that a template from Homeland Security had been used to write the document. Once the EOP is approved, copies will be located in the Business Manager’s office, the Building Manager’s office, as well as the front reception desk. The EOP is meant to outline responsibilities in the event of an emergency both inside and outside of the building and provide resources.

A short period of questions and answers followed.

**Staff Report**

Hannah McConnell, Director of Worship and Music, gave a summary of upcoming events: Youth Sunday will be on March 3rd with the First Kids Choir singing in the service; youth will read Scripture once a month; a youth chime group has been formed; a Pancake Dinner will be held before the Ash Wednesday Service to benefit this summer’s Mission Youth Trip; there will be child care options throughout Lent; a special choral event, a performance of Bach’s *St. Matthew’s Passion*, will take place on April 13th at 5:00 p.m.; the staff is trying to bridge “silos” by working on joint projects; hospitality efforts are underway with the suggestion that name tags be worn by all officers and those involved in the worship services.

At the conclusion of her report, a prayer was offered for Hannah and the work she is doing in the areas of worship and music.

**Clerk’s Report**

- 2018 Statistical Report  
The 2018 Statistical Report was submitted to the PCUSA offices. This report determines the per capita for churches in the denomination.
- February 16, 2019 Chicago Presbytery Assembly Report  
FPCE was well represented at the Chicago Presbytery Assembly meeting on February 16th. Six ruling elder commissioners were in attendance. The meetings will all be held at Chicago 4th Pres. this year. (A summary of the meeting is found on the link.)

**Pastors’ Reports**

- Session Meeting with the Confirmands

This important event will take place on March 11, 2019 at 7:00 in the Dining Room. It will be a time for the elders to learn more about the confirmands and their faith journeys. The elders will approve these young folks as members at this meeting.

- Vacation Plans  
Pastor Henry will be on vacation June 8th – 20th. Pastor Ray will be on vacation from June 3rd -14th. There will be guest preachers in the overlap Sundays when both pastors are away.
- Lenten Series  
Taize services will be offered every Wednesday during Lent, with the exception of April 3rd when a documentary film “In the Shadow of Memory” will be shown.
- Fall Concert  
Plans are being finalized for singer and songwriter Sandra McCracken to present a concert in October.

### **Leadership Task Force Update**

Elder Matt McLeod reported that the Strategic Plan Leadership Task Force has met several times. They are charged with suggesting board membership reductions and refining the roles of elders, deacons, and trustees. The group hopes to bring their recommendations to Session in the coming months for approval.

### **Ministry Architects Strategic Plan Implementation**

Pastor Ray noted that there were six goals which came out of the Visioning Summit in January. He asked the elders to consider a Stewardship Summit proposal and to possibly support removing Goal #6: *By January 2022, FPCE has become a premier resource in Health and Human Services with representation on each HHS committee on the North Shore.*

The elders agreed to the recommendation of removing Goal #6 and inserting the stewardship component.

The elders looked briefly at the revised mission statement and the proposed values document but no decision was made in these areas.

The remainder of the meeting was spent in executive session.

*Laurie Kaeser, Clerk of Session*

## **2019 Session**

### **Ordained Pastors**

Rev. Raymond Hylton, *Senior Pastor & Moderator of Session*

Rev. Henry Coates, *Designated Associate Pastor*

### **Ruling Elders**

Laurie Kaeser, *Clerk of Session*

Daniel Allen, *Children's Ministry Council*

Bob Bastian, *The Counseling Center Board*

Sonia Bodi, *Worship Ministry Council, Chicago Presbytery Commissioner*

Bryan Carmody, *Worship Ministry Council*

Dwayne Dobschuetz, *Youth Ministry Council, Stewardship Committee*

Katie Duke, *Pastoral Care Ministry Council*

Susan Hood, *Youth Ministry Council*

Laura Jones, *Pastoral Care Ministry Council*

Kim Klamm, *Personnel Ministry Council, Budget Committee*

Rosemary Mauck, *Evangelism & Membership Development Ministry Council, Nominating Committee*

Matt McLeod, *Adult Discipleship Ministry Council, Nominating Committee*

Hugh Parry, *Personnel Ministry Council*

Dan Shiau, *Adult Discipleship Ministry Council*

Barb Smith, *Evangelism & Membership Development Ministry Council, Chicago Presbytery Commissioner*

Marge Stromberg, *Children's Ministry Council, Chicago Presbytery Commissioner*

Dick Warnecke, *Mission Ministry Council*

Sharyn Wilson Woods, *Mission Ministry Council, Chicago Presbytery Commissioner*