

Session Summary **October 22, 2019 Stated Meeting**

Following is a summary of the October 22, 2019 Session meeting. For further information or clarification, please contact one of the elders listed at the end of this summary.

Rev. Hylton called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with prayer.

Devotion and Prayer as a Session

Rosemary Mauck presented a devotion based upon Proverbs 24:16, Proverbs 15: 21-22, Psalm: 145:14, James 1:5 and Roman 8:28. Verses that set forth God's redemptive power over the difficulties, challenges and failures that believers face. After reading each verse, Rosemary prayed for God's grace and mercy for the Session and our Congregation.

Rosemary closed the devotion with prayer.

Congregational Meeting

The Session discussed the recent congregational meeting which resulted in a vote rejecting the proposed Amendment and Restatement of the Bylaws that would have provided for the unicameral governance of the Church. The discussion focused on how the new Bylaws could be presented at the congregational meeting in February, 2020 to improve the possibility of a favorable outcome. The preparation for that meeting should include improved communication concerning the demographic and financial/budget issues that the Church currently faces, opportunities for the education of and dialogue with members, a better understanding of the opposition to the Bylaws by some of the members and follow up with individual members, as may be necessary.

Preliminary Budgets

The Session discussed at length the two Preliminary Budgets, one approved by the Board of Trustees and the second, as increased by the requests presented by the Councils. The focus of the discussion was on how to improve the 2020 budget process going forward. The methods to accomplish this goal included: better analysis and communication by the Councils, the use of quarterly reports and the member data base, improving the outreach to and education of the congregation, tracking member movement and spiritual growth, evaluating volunteer participation and leadership, and using a narrative form and/or pictures to convey examples of successful and vibrant ministries of the Church. The Session discussed the need to continue this discussion at the November Session meeting.

The motion was made and seconded to table the motion to adopt a preliminary budget. The motion carried.

Clerk's Report

Clerk's Omnibus Motion

The motion was made and seconded to approve the Clerk's Omnibus Motion. The motion carried.

CLERK'S OMNIBUS MOTION

October 22, 2019

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the September 24, 2019 Session meeting be, and are hereby approved.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT, INCIDENTAL LISTS, STATUS CHANGE REQUESTS, AND BAPTISM REQUESTS

RESOLVED, that the Incidental Lists and Membership Report; and the October, 2019 Baptisms and Membership Status Change Requests be, and are hereby approved and incorporated in these minutes as if they had been fully set forth therein.

COMMUNION

RESOLVED, that Holy Communion was served at the 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Sunday worship services on October 6, 2019.

Pastors' Report

Rev. Coates reported on the stewardship report presented at the congregational meeting on October 20, 2019. Rev. Hylton reported that the Session Christmas party has been scheduled for December 10 and that elders are requested to sign up for serving communion at future 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. services.

PMC Report

Kim Klamm presented a report on Jim Moore's condition and also presented a PMC recommendation to amend the Church's Human Resource Manual to include a provision regarding employee compliance with all federal, state and local laws and that stickers be placed in appropriate locations in Church buildings regarding the exclusion of guns from all Church buildings and property.

The motion was made and seconded to approve the inclusion of the statutory compliance provision in the Church's Human Resource Manual as recommended by the Personnel Ministry Council. The motion carried.

The Session endorsed tasking the Building Committee with the placement of stickers in appropriate locations in Church buildings that state that guns are prohibited from all Church buildings and property.

Church Governance/Council Realignment Report

The Session discussed the Church Governance/Council Realignment Report which included the evaluation of FPCE Councils and Ministries, which included the following questions:

1. Were there surprises to the number of Ministries under your Council?
2. Does it seem like too many? Or too few?
3. Any Ministries you think should go to a different Council?
4. Any Ministries you think we need to phase out?

And looking forward, under the new structure:

5. What changes need to be made (especially in light of the discussion of 1-4 above)?
6. What Committees do you anticipate your Council needing?
7. Does this structure seem sustainable?

The Session agreed to continue the discussion of these questions at the November Session meeting.

Questions and/or comments regarding Board/Council Minutes

None

Joys and Concerns

Dwayne Dobschuetz expressed his joy at the Men's Ministry celebrating its 25th anniversary by hosting the coffee hour on October 27. Rev. Hylton and Sonia Bodi expressed their joy and appreciation for the memorial service celebrating the life of Peter Bodi.

How Did We Do?

No discussion.

Adjournment in Prayer

The meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer by Rev. Hylton at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

LeRoy Klemt, Interim Clerk

2019 Session

Ordained Pastors

Rev. Dr. Raymond Hylton, Senior Pastor and Moderator of Session
Rev. Henry Coates, Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Fellowship

Ruling Elders

LeRoy Klemt, Interim Clerk of Session

Daniel Allen, Children's Ministry Council
Bob Bastian, The Counseling Center Board
Sonia Bodi, Worship Ministry Council, Chicago Presbytery Commissioner
Brian 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 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 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