

Session Summary

July 23, 2019

Following are **highlights** of the July 23, 2019 Session Meeting. *For further clarification and/or questions, please feel free to contact one of the elders listed at the end of this summary.*

Pastor Hylton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with prayer.

Devotion and Prayer as a Session

Pastor Henry led the session in devotions. He has been meeting with a small intergenerational discipleship group to study the book, *The Apostles' Creed: A Guide to the Ancient Catechism* by Ben Myers. Pastor Henry shared some of the important points of their study, particularly about *baptism* and *forgiveness of sins*. In baptism we are claimed as one of God's children, and in the past, the *Apostle's Creed* was used to teach people about the importance of baptism before they were baptized. Then Pastor Henry read portions of the *forgiveness of sins* which posed two questions: 1) What is it that makes you a follower of Christ? 2) Where have you have strayed from Christ's path? Augustine wrote, "We must never despair of anyone at all," because our baptism is rooted in God's grace and in God's *forgiveness* so we can forgive each other.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Ray reported that William Jordan, who had been under care of our session, was ordained on May 26, 2019 at Lely Presbyterian Church in Naples, Florida. He, therefore, will no longer be a member of our church.

In other changes, the welcome table will be relocated to the reception desk, and the pew pads will be used once again during worship services.

2020 Budget Process

Clark Robinson, Chair of the Budget Ministry Team and Treasurer, presented an overview of the new budget planning process. He reminded elders that as ministry councils work on their goals in conjunction with the budget, the goals may change or be revised during the budget planning process.

Important dates are as follows:

September 1 – worksheets are due. Bill Bolen, Melody Henri, and Clark Robinson have offered to help councils if they have questions about the worksheet.

September – preliminary budget is due

October 20 – congregational meeting when the budget will be presented

January 28 - final budget is approved.

Mr. Robinson then gave his financial report.

Stewardship Ministry

Pastor Henry gave his Stewardship Ministry report. Stewardship will now be a year-round program and will emphasize that stewardship includes service, time, and finances and that we give of ourselves out of gratitude for what God has done for us. A brochure will be developed to explain what stewardship is. Moreover, the story of our church will be connected with how we steward our resources.

Social Media Policy

Kim Klamm presented the Social Media Policy. The taskforce looked at policies of other churches and institutions, particularly those policies that reflect our church culture, our life in Christ, and with each other. Questions and discussion followed. Although the policy is specifically for the staff, it will be distributed to all leaders and others who need it. It should also be included in our Child Protection Policy.

The motion was made and seconded to adopt the FPCE Social Media Policy with a parenthetical example added to #7 on p. 3. The motion carried.

Executive Session

The motion was made and seconded to go into Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. The motion carried.

The motion was made and seconded to adopt the job description for the position of Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Stewardship. The motion carried.

The motion was made and seconded to call the Rev. Henry Coates as the Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Stewardship. The motion carried.

The motion was made and seconded to call a congregational meeting on August 11, 2019 following the 10:00 am worship service. The motion carried.

The motion was made and seconded to move out of Executive Session at 9:00 pm. The motion carried.

Investment and Impact Survey.

Karen Shaw distributed the “Ministry Investment and Impact Analysis: Final Report to Session” and gave important points for elders to focus on for discussion at the August 27 session meeting.

Strategic Plan

Pastor Ray recommended the following members to be on the team to rewrite the bylaws: Mike Campbell, LeRoy Klemt, Sonia Bodi, Laurie Kaeser, Elizabeth Brown, Jide Nzelibe, Susan Powell, Jon Phillips, Tim Minich, and Lisa Bolen Fisher. The bylaws need to be ready by the September 24 session meeting so that the congregation can vote on the bylaws at the congregational meeting, October 20. The motion was made and seconded to ask these individuals to be on the bylaws team. The motion carried.

Councils will continue to meet to write the narrative for their council.

The Resource Steward Council will be working on the financial documents requiring approval by both session and trustees.

Next Ministries

Barb Smith reported on the progress of Next Ministries which is the first Presbytery of Chicago church plant in 35 years. Next Ministries will have a worship facility in September in Bronzeville. A program has been designed to help the parents of children in three Chicago schools. People have been helping the children in the schools, but until now, no one has helped their parents so the schools are very grateful.

Joys and Concerns

Sarah and Gracie Zhou's baptisms were wonderful to see.

11 families attended First Pres family camp at Stronghold.

17 kids and 6 adults are going on the mission trip.

Daniel Allen expressed gratitude for the wonderful influence Barbara and Larry Holm are on his two young daughters who sit with them during worship.

The meeting ended with prayer at 9:20 pm.

Sonia Bodi, Clerk of Session, pro tem

2019 Session

Ordained Pastors

Rev. Dr. Raymond Hylton, *Senior Pastor and Moderator of Session*

Rev. Henry Coates, *Designated Associate Pastor*

Ruling Elders

LeRoy Klemt, *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*