

## **Session Summary January 26, 2021 Stated Meeting**

Following is a summary of the January 26, 2021 Session Meeting. For further information or clarification please contact the elders listed at the end of this summary.

### **Prayer and Devotion as a Session**

Rev. Dr. Hylton opened the meeting with prayer and then presented a devotion based on the book: A Church Called Tov: Forming A Goodness Culture That Resists Abuses of Power and Promotes Healing by Scott McKnight and Laura Barringer. This book will be the subject of Session devotions in 2021, which will be led by the elders.

### **Discussion of the 2021 Budget**

Clark Robinson, FPCE Treasurer, presented the proposed 2021 Budget and led an extended discussion of the budget, which included the overall financial condition of the church and projections for future years (with comments by J.J. Ivaska.) John Powell reported that the Board of Trustees had unanimously approved at its January meeting the recommendation of the Mission Council to increase the 2021 mission budget from \$164,060, as set forth in the Preliminary 2021 Budget, to \$195,000, the approximate amount approved in the 2020 mission budget. The Session engaged in a further discussion of the 2021 budget. This modification increased the projected 2021 deficit from \$233,210 to \$264,150.

**The motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed 2021 budget with the following adjustment: that the 2021 mission budget be increased from \$164, 060 to \$195,000.**

### **The motion carried**

The members of the Board of Trustees and Clark Robinson were excused and thanked for their service to the church and their significant contribution to the budgetary process.

### **Review of the Dashboard**

The use of the Dashboard by each Council in meeting the strategic goals of the Session were presented by: Bob Bastian - Community Life and Pastoral Care Council, Caryl Weinberg - Board of Deacons, J.J. Ivaska - Discipleship Council, James Bodan - Leadership Council, Dick Warnecke - Mission Council, Lisa Bolsen-Fisher - Our Children Our Families Council, LeRoy Klemm - Personnel Council, Hannah McConnel - Worship Council, Jim Teague - Communication

### **Discussion of Unicameral Governance for the Church**

The Session discussed establishing a time table for reintroducing unicameral governance of the church to the congregation. It was agreed that materials and classes would be made

available to the congregation beginning in the spring with a special congregational meeting to be scheduled for late summer. Names of potential candidates for the Unicameral Task Force were discussed. Rev. Dr. Hylton and LeRoy Klemt will decide upon the final composition of the Task Force.

### **Discussion of Reopening the Church**

Rev. Dr. Hylton led a discussion of reopening the church, including the safe usage of the building by small groups and families. The timing for reopening the church for Sunday services is still uncertain. However, the staff will continue their discussion of this issue and will make recommendations to the Session. The use of an outdoor venue for the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday was also discussed.

### **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**

**January 26, 2021**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the November 17, 2020 Session Meeting be and are hereby approved.

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

**RESOLVED**, that the December 2020 Incidental Lists and Membership Report; and the January 2021 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 celebrated at the virtual 10 a.m. Sunday Worship Services on December 6, 2020 and January 3, 2021.

### **RECEIPT OF WRITTEN REPORTS**

- Community Life and Pastoral Care Council Minutes 12-8-20
- Discipleship Council Minutes 1-14-21
- Mission Council Minutes 11-16-20
- Mission Council Minutes 12-14-20
- Mission Council Letter to the Trustees 1-11-21
- Our Families Our Children Council Minutes 1-12-21

- Worship Council Minutes 1-12-21
- FPCE Financial Report 2020 - 12 (Preliminary)
- FPCE 2021 Budget and Projections

### **Election of the Clerk, the Treasurer and the Chicago Presbytery Commissioners**

The motion was made and seconded to elect LeRoy Klemt as Clerk of the Session, Clark Robinson as Church Treasurer (for a two year term) and the following persons as Commissioners to the Chicago Presbytery: Bob Bastian, Sonia Bodi, Laurie Kaeser, Clark Robinson and Go Sugiura.

The motion carried.

### **Installation of Officers**

The Session reports the installation of the following officers on January 10, 2021: James Bodan, Betsey Newenhuyse, and Rick Parris as elders; John Carlson, Marilyn Haase, Theresa Nissen, Amy Powell, Susan Powell, Dave Sloan, Linda Takushi, Steve Takushi, Fred Wenger and Trudy Wenger as deacons; and Jon Philips, Annette Stover and Michael Witwer as trustees.

### **Pastor's Report**

Rev. Dr. Hylton led a discussion of the recent Leadership Retreat, which focused on the implementation of the monthly planning cycle based upon prayer, planning, periodic review and the academic year.

Rev. Dr. Hylton also informed the Session of his plans for a sabbatical leave from April 5 to July 6, 2021 and that the new Business Manager, Renee Lewis, had recently begun working at the church on a daily basis.

There was also a brief discussion that Roy Hall might become available for use by families and small groups on a restricted basis.

### **Executive Session**

The motion was made and seconded to move to executive session. The motion carried. The motion was made and seconded to end executive session. The motion carried.

### **Questions and/or comments regarding Board/Council Minutes**

None

### **Joys and Concerns**

Rev. Dr. Hylton expressed the need for prayers for Bob Sefton and Peter Steffen, who were recently admitted to Evanston Hospital.

### **Adjournment in Prayer**

The meeting was adjourned and closed in prayer by Bob Bastian at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

LeRoy Klemt, Clerk

### **2021 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, Clerk of Session

Daniel Allen, Worship Council, Nominating Committee

Bob Bastian, Community Life and Pastoral Care Council, The Counseling Center Board,  
Chicago Presbytery Commissioner

James Bodan, Leadership Council

Lisa Bolsen-Fisher, Our Families Our Children Council, Stewardship Committee

Bryan Carmody, Our Families Our Children Council

J.J. Ivaska, Discipleship Council, Resource Steward Council (Budget Committee,  
Finance and Endowment Committee)

Kim Klamm, Personnel Council, Resource Steward Council (Budget Committee)

Rosemary Mauck, Leadership Council, Discipleship Council, Nominating Committee

Betsey Newenhuyse, Worship Council

Rick Parris, Community Life and Pastoral Care Council, Resource Steward Council  
(Finance and Endowment Committee)

Dick Warnecke, Mission Council, Great Commission Fund