



IN Session

by Elder Laura Brooks

The Session met for its stated meeting on Sunday, 19 May, after worship. Highlights from the meeting included:

- The session received written reports from the Treasurer, the Worship Planning Team, and the Nominating Committee. It was thrilled to hear that the slate of deacon- and elder-nominees has been filled and is set for the congregation to vote on at the 23 June Called Congregational Meeting. Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair Elder Kim-Senior noted that a reminder was sent out through Constant Contact about scheduled giving and that a financial status item was included in the May eNews, with plans to continue that practice. The session and deacons will receive an overview of FPC's 2024 Congregational Assessment Tool results from National Capital Presbytery interpreter Elder Jesy Littlejohn on 20 May.
- Pastor Juli also reported on her recent and upcoming activities, including her vacation and study leave over the summer. While she is away, various voices will fill the pulpit, from Pastoral Associates to Deacons to Ruling Elders. She also noted that African Communities Together (ACT), the organization displaying the door on FPC's lawn, is working with FPC to host a listening/"know-your-rights" session for Waypoint and other City of Alexandria tenants on 23 June at 1:00 pm after FPC's Congregational Meeting. ACT handed out flyers at the 16 May Community Cookout. ACT will facilitate the session, while FPC will provide the space, food, and child care. Finally, Pastor Juli said additional volunteers for Waypoint Wednesdays are needed and always welcome.
- Most of the meeting was spent on a first look at the draft position description and work plan, which Pastor Juli has been developing since the fall with the assistance of Maggie Holmesheoran, the lay liaison to the session for personnel. The position description and work plan use a core competency approach with SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant/realistic, time-bound) goals and lay the groundwork for an annual pastor review process. The position description outlines nine essential duty categories for the FPC pastor. Pastor Juli then assigned her current level of effort to each category. As a result of this process, she noted she would like to dedicate more time to several activities and get additional help doing the work of other duties. Continuing this process, Pastor Juli Wilson will report to the session on the delta between her current level of effort against essential duties, her assessed optimal level of effort, and what duties she might like to shift to someone else and which activities take advantage of her unique and special abilities or bring her joy in which she would like to invest more of her time. The session and Pastor Wilson-Black will also use FPC's 2024 Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) results to guide ongoing discussions.

The next stated session meeting will be on Sunday, 30 June, after worship in the Library.