

### **SESSION UPDATE FROM MARCH 12, 2023**

During the most recent Stated Session meeting, Session approved a four-week book drive sponsored by CARE, the Committee on Anti-Racism and Equity, to stock the Mosaic Hub Community House's library with vetted books for middle and high school age readers. For those of you who may have forgotten, the Mosaic Hub, located in North Chicago, is home to a vibrant and growing Christian community. You will be hearing more about the book drive in the coming weeks.

Elder Vanessa Griffin, chairperson of the Gender Equity Task Force, presented an overview of that task force's report and recommendations. Over the last several weeks, the Elders have read, reviewed, and prayerfully considered the findings of the task force report and will be having a special meeting to discuss and make decisions on the recommendations.

Elder Rich Monahan, chair of the Congregational Nominating Committee, provided an update on that committee's work. At the time of our meeting, the committee was still working diligently to seek candidates for both Deacon and Elder. Deacons and Elders serve our congregation and our community in a variety of ways. While it can be at times challenging work, it is always fulfilling as we work together to serve God and our neighbors and grow our community. If you'd like to know more, please contact Rich Monahan, or any member of the Nominating Committee: Lennie Blair, Bruce Clark, Martin Frey, Chris Griffin, Bill Hicks, Rosemary Monahan or Brian Tischendorf. I know they would be delighted to hear from you!

And finally, Session met before worship on February 26<sup>th</sup> to receive new members to the congregation. These gatherings are always some of our most joyful because they allow us to engage personally with our new members. We welcome the Maxie family (Kenny, Leslie, Lily and Rosie), Lucia and David Thoensen, Lucia's mother Dianne Kennedy, and Nancy Kodish to the First Pres family. It is such a blessing to have you all as a part of our faith community.