

Your Session met for their regular meeting on May 23 in person at the church. Co-chair of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) Brad Brown attended to provide and update on the progress of the Committee. It is a very different climate than in any search prior to this and the committee is working hard in this difficult hiring time. They are working diligently on our behalf and your continued prayers are requested.

Pastor Charlie led a discussion on the introduction to the book *Leading Faithful Innovation* which focuses on following God into a hopeful future. The book reminds us of the church in the book of Acts and how we can “draw ourselves back into the core stories of faith and deepen our capacity to be led by God.” (p. 4)

The Finance Committee, chaired by John Guequierre, is working to create and update the financial policies for a comprehensive office manual. This month the Conflict-of-Interest Policy was approved by Session. Next month there will be three more to review and approve. He also reported that the financial health of the congregation is good.

Presbytery was held on May 16 in Monroe at the Union Presbyterian Church. Jan Minardi, Marilyn Krichko, Raleigh Jones, Laurie Jones, Doug Poland, and Rev. Clara Thompson attended from Covenant. It was a joyful occasion where Ellen Keyser Edelman was examined for her first call at Lodi Presbyterian and Ruling Elder Karla Johnson was examined and ordained as a Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) where she serves the congregations of Frankville Community Presbyterian Church in Frankville, Iowa and Bethlehem Presbyterian Church in Postville, Iowa. The afternoon focused on the work of discerning what is next for the Presbytery and how it can better organize itself for the needs of the congregations and members within its bounds. It was a beautiful spring day with lunch served in the adjacent park and an uplifting spirit throughout the gathering.

Mission Spotlight

For CEDEPCA, the root of change is through education. The Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA) is seeking to eliminate gender-based violence by offering transformative workshops for groups of adolescent girls and boys.



The programs - Tamar (for girls) and Jose (for boys) - teach kids the context of domestic violence, empowerment of girls and women and re-definition of masculinity. Covenant is sponsoring this program in Coyolate, at the request of families we met while visiting Guatemala last fall. Other CEDEPCA programs include a Biblical & Theological Seminary, Women's Ministries, Disaster Ministry. We will welcome CEDEPCA Intercultural Encounter facilitators, Rev. Betsey Moe and her husband Eric, to Covenant on June 25. Prepare to be inspired by their ministry.

Visit covenantmadison.org/missions for more information on Missions at Covenant.