# Session update: December, 2025

## Clerk's Report

Deaths - Thomas Miller on Dec. 3.

New members - Norah Hooper and Mike Kimmel were received into membership on Nov. 21.

Member resignation - Pat Dyer wrote that he has found another congregation, and wishes to resign from membership. A motion was made and seconded, to accept Mr. Dyer's resignation, with regret. The motion carried.

## Pastor's Report

Pastor Karen continues to work on all things transition-oriented. This report is in two parts – the first covers progress made on current transition efforts and the second covers work to be undertaken in 2026.

The Session-appointed Governance Restructuring Team of Ted Masthay, Rich Gorton and Joanne Kelhart, are working diligently on restructuring our governance, which includes writing new bylaws that combine corporate and congregational bylaws.

The Manual of Operations Team has been working to collect necessary documents and identify gaps. We expect that by January/February 2026, we can come to Session with a draft manual.

The transition of Brenda Robinson to office and HR manager is going well.

She had a conversation with Scott DeCaro, the new stated clerk for Mountain Laurel Presbytery, about the Mission Study and the process we are considering. A Mission Study is the telling of the congregation's story, taking into account its history, the lives of its members, the community in which it is located, processing any lingering grief which then allows us to look at hopes and dreams for the future. The power of a good study is in narrative. Every study needs to include the following elements:

- A Mission and Values Statement
- A "word" picture of the Congregation: who are we as a community of faith? How do we encounter Christ? How do we live out our four core values? Where is our energy to serve? What does our community look like?
- What grief do we need to acknowledge and process? How might that grief inform the future hopes and dreams?
- What is our current mission and ministry? What might future mission and ministry look like? What do we dream?
- Supporting documentation – Maps, site plans, charts, budgets, lists of community services or attractions or schools, graphs, and statistics may all be used to validate and/or clarify the descriptions of the community and congregation.
- Good narrative and pictures – a great website/FB page are all good things to include in a final study.

She is currently thinking through the type of Mission Study that can be used in a way that allows us to involve many voices (through small groups), guided by a diverse team of folks. We will need to develop a short list of guiding questions that will address grief, current thought about mission and ministry and hopes and dreams. In January, we will need to appoint the Mission Study team.

## Continuing Business

Kim Miner presented two motions from the Finance Committee. The first was to transfer all unspent budgeted funds in the 2025 Endowment budget to the General Fund. This action is authorized within the Administrative Guidelines Document under Section V. Gift Administration, Section B. Current unspent balance is $48,310.

The second motion was to take an additional draw from the Endow your Pledge Fund to close the deficit in the 2026 Budget. The amount to be added to draw is $314,880. As part of this process, the Finance Committee also recommends approval of the updated Endowment Budget. Both motions were approved.

Pastor Karen gave a stewardship report.

She explained that resetting the Annual Meeting Date to Jan. 25 would allow the Mission Strategy Committee to present their recommendations to the congregation on Feb. 15. A motion was made to change the congregational meeting date to Jan. 25. The motion was seconded and approved.

Governance restructuring –Ted guided us through the first read of the new bylaws, which will merge the bylaws of the corporation and congregation.

**New Business**
Kim Miner made a motion for the Personnel Committee that Session approve a six-month extension of Karen's Transitional Pastor contract that ends on Feb. 28, 2026. The Personnel Committee motion was approved.

Karen presented a motion from the Preschool Governance Committee to approve the proposed 2026 - 2027 school year change to the extended care rate to 10.00 per hour, to begin with this year's Summer Splash program (June 2026). That rate will continue through the 2026-2027 school year. The motion was approved.

**Elect Clerk for 2026**
A motion to approve Jennifer Cole as Clerk of Session for 2026 was seconded and approved.

**Elect Treasurer for 2026**
A motion to approved Phi Clauser and Mark Swank as co-treasurers of the congregation for 2026 was seconded and approved.

**Elect Elder Commissioners for 2026**
There were no volunteers for elder commissioners for the year of 2026, but Kari Keyock and Donna Taggart agreed to be the commissioners for the first Presbytery meeting of 2026. A motion was made and seconded to approve Donna and Kari as commissioners for the February meeting of Mountain Laurel Presbytery. The motion carried.

Jennifer represented the Manual of Operations team in moving that Session appoint a committee to review and revise the Safe Church policy. The policy that exists needs to be updated, and related topics need to be included, both for clarity and to be compliant with mandates. The motion carried.

Session agreed to continue meeting on the fourth Monday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Jan. 26, 2026 via Zoom vidoeconference.

The next Presbytery Meeting: Feb. 28, 2026, via Zoom videoconference.