

Session Highlights for January and February 2023

Session accepted changes in our Mission Statement and Core Values, which now read:

Mission Statement

To welcome an inclusive and joyful community of Christ's followers into actively exploring how God's gracious love gives meaning to our lives and faith, and inspires us to address the needs of our changing world. Through our learning, service, and grateful worship, God fills us with purpose, compassion, courage, and love.

Congregational Core Values

Christ Centered: In everything we do, we strive to follow Jesus Christ faithfully through the authority and insight of God's Word and Spirit, to imitate Christ in how we treat others.

Expansively Welcoming: Because our unity is in Christ, we strive to be a community of Christian faith where people of all backgrounds, identities, and orientations are welcomed, supported, engaged, and empowered in their individual faith and our common life and ministry.

An Inquiring Faith: Following Christ's example in Scripture, we believe that curiosity and questioning are essential practices of faith, and that some of our most important work as a congregation is helping each other to ask better questions about faith and life, and to seek more faithful answers together.

An Active Faith: We believe faith is not simply a set of beliefs, but a way of life. Faith is lived out in the daily practice of those beliefs through concrete actions of love, justice, mercy, kindness, repentance, reconciliation, and peace.

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Session approved the collection of PCUSA special offerings for 2023.

Session was pleased to approve new members Ginny May, Karla Hare, Meggie Shoemaker, Doreen Sheppard, and Carol Freebairn.

Rich Hjorth and Jennifer Cole were selected as Commissioners to Presbytery, with Kari Keyock, Al Philpotts, and JoAnne Turcotte as alternates.

A Mission Strategy Steering Committee was selected. The Committee will guide an energetic effort to help us discern, develop, and pursue new long-term strategies as a congregation that will increase our ministry impact as well as move us toward financial sustainability. Town Hall meetings will be scheduled to update the congregation on the Committee's progress.

Lindsey has been tapped to serve on the Board of Commissioners for the Bethlehem Housing Authority. She will be an asset in that role.

Session was pleased to approve Nancy Becker for membership by reaffirmation of faith.

Preschool enrollment is robust, and Session approved four new preschool positions for infant/toddler and four-year-old care expansion.

We thank Gail Watts, Rich Hjorth, and Dan Magocs, who have completed their service on Session. Their contributions as leaders with integrity, faithfulness and grace are much appreciated.