March, April, and May 2024 Session Updates

March

Harper Pierce, born June 5, 2023, daughter of Khara and Daytin Pierce, was baptized on March 17.

Aileen Williams joined as a new member on March 3.

We regret to learn of the death Virginia (Milly) Mead, on February 27.

A called meeting of the Lehigh Presbytery was held on March 13 via Zoom videoconference, to address a motion by the Administrative Committee to close Freeland Presbyterian Church. The motion passed, and the Administrative Committee was empowered to proceed with the closure.

Jennifer Cole contacted the Records Archivist at the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia to ask when we last sent records for archiving. He kindly sent information about records retention. Our last archived records are from 1995.

April

Session approved a motion to begin the summer schedule on May 19 instead of May 26, to be followed by a Town Hall meeting.

Session approved a motion to allow the pastor and Worship Committee chair to make the decision to change to a 10-minute reflection time after the sermon every other week for the summer, should the reflection time during Lemonade on the Lawn not be successful.

Session approved a Personnel Committee motion to revise the dates of the contract for Suzanne Trump, beginning April 17, 2024 and ending April 15, 2025.

Session approved a motion to amend the title of Suzanne's position in the contract to "Parish Associate for Compassion."

We regret to learn of the death of Anita Shannahan on April 19.

Lehigh and Lackawanna Presbyteries met jointly on April 27 at Hope of Christ Presbyterian Church in Summit Hill, PA. Rich Hjorth and Jennifer Cole attended as Commissioners. Keynote speaker was Rev. Tony Oltmann from the Office of Vital Congregations, who introduced the seven marks of vital congregations.

Both Presbyteries approved the Presbytery Approval for Plan to Merge which gave a green light to the Merger Team to move from exploring to developing a plan to merge. Approval for that plan will come back to the Presbyteries in Spring 2025.

Lehigh approved two nominations sent from the Shared Gifts Committee: For the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Elder John Bitzer - (First, Stroudsburg) - Class of 2026 – 1st term and for the Committee on Shared Gifts, Elder Yvonne Lewis (Washington, Reading) – Class of 2026 1st term.

Worship Committee is to update the wedding and funeral policies.

May

Session elected George Campbell to a one-year term as congregational treasurer. We are grateful to George for his faithful service.

We regret to learn of the death of Grace Halkins on May 12.

A Boundary Training Zoom meeting was held on May 2. A recording of the meeting and a PDF of the slides used were made available. The training has been completed by all members of Session.

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Our charter was changed prior to the split in the congregation, and in the near future will require amendment to add the Six Great Ends of the Church, statements crafted in the early 20th century to guide the vision and mission of the Presbyterian Church. The amendments will be in compliance with the Book of Order.

Kevin Konczyk was instrumental in the church Spring Cleaning sale. We are grateful for his dedication and hard work.

Brandon is back for the summer. His assistance is especially welcome since Chris has some shoulder issues and Tom is still on administrative leave.