SESSION REPORT – JANUARY 2024

Session was pleased to approve Kate Arrington for membership through Reaffirmation of Faith.

Session approved the Personnel Committee's motions:

- to approve a 3.5% COLA salary increase for all non-installed pastors and staff.

- to recommend to the Congregation a 3.5% COLA salary increase for Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton. Rev. J. C. Austin again declined a salary increase.

- to hire David Crook as Director of Church Administration.

Session approved the 2024 Budget as discussed and amended by the joint meeting of the Session and Trustees on January 14.

Donna reported that the nonprofit partner that hopes to use our building is working with an architect to refine their requirement. When that plan is finalized, our building feasibility study can be completed.

Session accepted Steve Samuelson's resignation from Session with regret, and with gratitude for good and faithful service.

Jennifer reported the following membership changes:
New members: January 21, 2024 - Kate Arrington

Transfers: January 19, 2024 - Martha Sullivan, Patrick and Michael to First Presbyterian Church, Stroudsburg, PA

Deaths: December 20, 2023 - Betty Beasman; January 20, 2024 - Marilyn Whiteley

J.C. reported that there have been many recent hospitalizations, as often occurs in winter. People should not hesitate to pass on information regarding hospitalizations or other challenges to members of the congregation, as sometimes the usual avenues fail.

Lindsey is now chair of the Board for the Bethlehem Housing Authority, and is bringing new energy and insights as well as clarity of vision and purpose. The Housing Authority and the City of Bethlehem have a better working relationship as a result.