

July/August 2021 Session News Contents:

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Notes from the Session Meeting on June 1 & 22, 2021
Submitted by Jon Barnett, Clerk of Session**Session Notes from June 1, 2021:**

1. The Session APPROVED the minutes of the Session meeting on April 27, 2021.
2. The Session APPROVED that newly elected Elders and Deacons be ordained and installed on June 13, 2021.
3. The Session APPROVED that the laying on of hands for ordination of Elders and Deacons on June 13, 2021, at 10:00 am, will be one person's hand on one shoulder and a chain of people going backward.
4. The Session APPROVED the Covid-19 Vaccination Policy as amended to be in effect until January 31, 2022.

Covid-19 Vaccination Policy Recommendation (from Elders Margot Watson, Sharon Glennen, Kathy Robie-Suh) as amended:

As of June 1, 2021, the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Howard County requires that all volunteer leaders** of any indoor church-sponsored activity be fully vaccinated against COVID19. Fully vaccinated means that on the day of participation, one is at least 14 days from completing the recommended vaccine series. This policy will be in effect until at least January 31, 2022, at which time the Session will reassess it.

** "Volunteer leaders" includes but is not limited to church staff, technical crew, liturgists, ushers, greeters, musicians, choir members, Sunday school teachers, nursery providers, communion preparers, mission or discipleship activity volunteers and liturgical dancers, whether the event is on church grounds or elsewhere.

5. The Session APPROVED that the church re-open the sanctuary to in-person worship based on stated parameters provided by WAM. (Text included below.)
6. The Session APPROVED that in-person worship in the sanctuary resume based on the schedule provided by WAM. (Text included below.)
7. The Session APPROVED assignments for Elders for 2021-22. (Assignments included below.)
8. The Session APPROVED that the Church, through STC, assist the Minister of Music, Matt May, with the purchase of a grand piano that will be stored at the Church.

P3 Recommendation

P3 recommends that the Church, through the Strengthening the Church Ministry Area, assist with the purchase of a grand piano (by the Director of Music Ministries) that will be stored at the Church. It is recommended that, provided mutually agreeable terms can be reached (a 3% interest rate is offered as a starting point) and satisfactory arrangements with respect to any applicable insurance costs can be worked out, the Church make a short term (i.e., 12-month) loan to the Director of Music Ministries in the amount of \$5,000 to facilitate the acquisition of this instrument.

Notes from the Session Meeting on June 1 & 22, 2021 (continued)

Submitted by Jon Barnett, Clerk of Session

9. The Session APPROVED a motion that STC be the group responsible for monitoring the details of record keeping and tracking payments for the loan to the Director of Music Ministries.
10. The Session APPROVED a July 13-16 trip to Massanetta for 5th-8th graders and chaperones for the Massanetta Middle School Conference.

The clerk's report showed that the average attendance for April 2021 was 146 (including Easter), as computed from the total of live stream connections to Facebook and YouTube and the in-person worship team.

Membership Activity: Philip Simermeyer was baptized by Pastor Morton on April 16, 2021.

April 30, 2021, Financial Summary:

Contributions Received to date \$273,773 (\$36,644 more than expected)
Total Income to date \$310,238 (\$47,735 more than expected)
Expenses to date \$279,783 (\$17,288 more than expected)
Surplus to date \$30,455 (\$30,447 more than expected)

Session Notes from the June 22nd meeting:

1. The Session APPROVED the minutes of the stated Session meeting on June 1, 2021.
2. The Session AFFIRMED our commitment to HoCo Pride by allowing FPCHC's logo to be used in social media, posters, and on the banner advertising the HoCo Pride festival in October 2021. The Session SUPPORTS the Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee running a booth at the festival using the FPCHC logo. The Session ALLOWS the FPCHC name and logo to be used on a sign or a banner that FPCHC members use at any HoCo Pride event.
3. The Session APPROVED the following details of the church building re-opening:

Church groups may schedule meetings and meet inside the Church after July 1 in designated rooms.
Use of masks is required through 09/30/2021, and until further notice. Room reservations must be made through the church office.
Outside groups may schedule meetings and meet inside the Church after October 1 in designated rooms. Use of masks is recommended until further notice. Room Reservations must be made through the church office.
Osher Institute may schedule use of rooms after September 15, 2021.
Inspirit Counseling may schedule use of their office space at any time.
Church and outside groups may schedule use of the church grounds through the church office.
4. The Session APPROVED our hosting of the October 21, 2021 Presbytery Gathering.
5. The Session APPROVED these elders as the Ministry Area Chairs for the 2021-2022 program year:

Discipleship and Caring Ministries: Elder Sharon Glennen
Christian Education: Elder Monica Metz
Mission: Elder Kathy Woods
Worship, Arts, Music: Elder Kathy Baker
Strengthening the Church: Elder Debbie Reese

Notes from the Session Meeting on June 1 & 22, 2021 (continued)

Submitted by Jon Barnett, Clerk of Session

6. The Session ELECTED Elder Sharon Glennon as the chair of the Congregational Nominating Committee and Elder Nan Miller as the second Elder on the same committee.
7. The Session ELECTED Clerk (Jon Barnett) and Assistant Clerk (Ginny Lockhart), and APPROVED Doyle Nichols as the chair of P3.
8. The Session ELECTED the following corporate officers:
 - President: Debbie Reese (Chair of STC)
 - Secretary: Jon Barnett (Clerk of Session)
 - Treasurer: Nancy Rentkiewicz (Church Treasurer)
9. The Session APPROVED the following Session meeting dates for the coming program year:
 - Stated (normally the 4th Tuesday): 2021: 7/27, 8/24, 9/28, 10/26, 11/16 (3rd Tuesday)
 - 2022: 1/25, 2/22, Th 3/24 (examine Confirmands), 4/26, 5/24 (examine new officers), 6/28, 8/23
10. The Session APPROVED dates for Communion in the coming program year:
 - 7/4/2021, 8/1/2021, 9/5/2021, 10/3/2021, 11/7/2021, 12/5/2021, 12/24/2021, 1/2/2022, 2/6/2022, 3/6/2022, 3/9/2022, 3/16/2022, 3/23/2022, 3/30/2022, 4/3/2022, 4/6/2022, 4/13/2022, 4/14/2022, 5/1/2022, 6/5/2022, 7/3/2022, 8/7/2022
11. The Session APPROVED the 2021/2022 program calendar as distributed.
12. The Session CALLED the following congregational meetings and SET the date of the Annual Congregational Meeting:
 - Sunday 9/26/2021, to change bylaws to allow virtual congregational meetings, in-person
 - Sunday 1/30/2022, Annual meeting (snow date 2/6/2022), in-person
 - Sunday 4/24/2022, to elect new Elders & Deacons, in-person

The clerk's report showed that the average attendance in May was 127, as computed from the total of live stream connections to Facebook and YouTube and the in-person worship team.

Membership Activity: None

May 31, 2021 Financial Summary

	Actual to Date	Expected to Date	More (Less) than Expected
Contributions Received	\$318,961	\$296,411	\$22,550
Total Income	\$357,317	\$328,129	\$29,188
Expenses	\$347,612	\$328,119	\$19,493
Surplus (Deficit)	\$9,705	\$10	\$9,695

Stated Session Meetings 2021-2022

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are on the fourth Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom until further notice. Optional chat-and-gather time at 6:30 p.m.



SESSION MEETING

2021: July 27, August 24, September 28, October 26, November 16 (3rd Tues)

2022: January 25, February 22, Thursday March 24, April 26, May 24, June 28, August 23

Co-Pastors' Contact Info

Morton and Sue's cell phone numbers & emails:

Morton: 443-824-3768, mharris@firstpreshc.org

Sue: 443-824-4305, sharris@firstpreshc.org



Stewardship News



Financial Report Summary as of May 31, 2021

	Actual to Date	Expected to Date	More (less) than Expected
Contributions Received	\$318,961	\$296,411	\$22,550
Total Income	\$357,317	\$328,129	\$29,188
Total Expenses	<u>\$347,612</u>	<u>\$328,119</u>	<u>\$19,493</u>
Surplus (Deficit) to Date	\$9,705	\$10	\$9,695

Remember Your Offerings

[**CLICK HERE**](#)
to donate through PayPal

Thank you for your continued support!

Stewardship News (continued)

2021 Per Capita Apportionment

Total Number of Contributions Received as of June 17, 2021

Total Number = 73

Amount = \$4,203.14

Per Capita for 2021 is \$36.06

Have you paid yours yet?

Thank you if you did!

The “Per Capita” is each church member’s share of the expenses of the larger church – the Presbytery, the Synod and General Assembly of the PCUSA. Our congregation is required to pay this amount for each member of the church. First Presbyterian Church of Howard County is faithful in fully paying our congregation’s apportionment; we put the total amount in our operating budget every year for all our members.

Some of our members regularly pay their “per capita” each year in addition to their regular giving. Thank you! It’s a big help to the annual budget.

Wouldn’t it be great if every member of the church made an additional contribution of his or her Per Capita apportionment? A contribution of \$36.06 from every member would mean that money could be put to work in other ways for our congregation’s ministries this year.

Another Way to Give!

Do you shop on Amazon? Then hop over to Amazonsmile and choose First Presbyterian as your charity and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to First Presbyterian!

Same company, same prices, same service, just with a benefit!



1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials
3. Choose “The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County” as your charity.
Be sure to use “The” to find the church’s name in their list.
4. Now, whenever you want to shop on Amazon, go to ***Amazonsmile.com***, not Amazon.com and make sure you see “The First Presbyterian Church of Howard County” at the top where it says SUPPORTING!