

MONDAY, February 12, 2024
REGULAR MEETING OF SESSION

02742

On Monday, February 12, 2024, the 652nd regular meeting of Session of Westminster Presbyterian Church was held in Galbreath Memorial Chapel. Dr. Forrest was the Moderator and opened the meeting with prayer at 7:00 pm.

Attending were Dr. Forrest and Elders Berrott, Davis, Eccher, Few, Galbreath, Hallums, Heilman, Jenkins, Locke, Ludwig, Malarkey, Null, Page, Price, Ralston, Sarraf, Thornburgh, and Waller, constituting a quorum.

REPORT OF THE CLERK

A motion to approve the minutes of the 651st (December 4, 2023) regular meeting of Session was made, seconded, and approved.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the membership changes indicated below.

BAPTISMS

None

DEATHS

Bernadette Capps, December 13, 2023
Elaine Klein, December 13, 2023
Marilyn Roberts, December 22, 2023
Lawrence (Larry) Wilson, January 11, 2024
Edward (Ned) Randall, January 27, 2024
Eric Harrison, February 5, 2024

MEMBERSHIP

Inactive by Request

Jack Beisner
Richard Krausa
Leah Mertz
Michele and Ashley Modany

REVIEW OF 2023 CHURCH STATISTICAL REPORT

The 2023 Westminster Church Statistical Report was posted on Sharepoint for review by Session members prior to the meeting. After the Clerk summarized the key membership data, a motion to approve the 2023 Statistical Report was made, seconded, and carried. The Clerk also

reported that the 2023 review by the Pittsburgh Presbytery of the Rolls and Minutes for 2022 was approved with commendation.

SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

During worship services on Sunday, January 7, 2024 and Sunday, February 4, 2024, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered to communicants.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Engagement 2024+

Dr. Forrest discussed new strategies to increase engagement by members of Westminster and the community at large in worship and in the ministry of the Church. She reviewed new approaches to stewardship as well as an emphasis on encouraging the formation of more small groups for worship, study, support, mission, and fellowship. She noted that both members of Westminster and people who are not members will be encouraged to participate.

Parish Associate Welcome

Dr. Forrest advised that the Church will hold a brunch in Fellowship Hall after each service on March 10, 2023 to welcome Rev. Laura Bentley, the new Parish Associate.

REALM Training and Use

Dr. Forrest and Elder Galbreath discussed Westminster's recent upgrade of its information technology to Realm Church Management Software. The conversion has been completed successfully. They explained that the Realm platform offers several new tools that will enhance the ability members and staff to manage a variety of tasks including member and staff profiles, directories, communications, events, giving, and small group creation and scheduling. One of the new features is *Realm Connect*, an application that enables members to add and edit contact information, to communicate directly with members, staff, and small groups, to identify new groups, to view the Directory, and to donate and track donations. Dr. Forrest encouraged all members of Session to download the Realm Connect application to their mobile phones and computers and to set up a Westminster Realm Account. A few members of Session were able to download the app to their mobile phones during the meeting. Dr. Forrest reported that an email will be sent to all members to assist them in creating an account and downloading Realm Connect.

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Forrest reported that the new issue of the reimagined Spire has been completed and will be mailed to congregants and will be available on the Church's website. She discussed ways to invite both members and non-members to participate in the ministries of the Church and the most effective ways to communicate. In addition to electronic communication, Dr. Forrest encouraged the use of traditional written communication, and she said that members may contact Bill Bingham for note cards and stamps.

Dr. Forrest informed Session that Rev. Laura Bentley is overjoyed to begin her ministry at Westminster. She will be a full-time Parish Associate, and she will preach her first sermon at Westminster on March 17, 2024.

COMMISSION REPORTS AND ACTIONS

The following Commissions submitted written reports prior to the meeting:

Bridge
 Children's and Family Ministries/WECEP
 Communications
 Endowment & Special Gifts
 Finance
 Personnel
 Property
 Stewardship
 Worship
 Youth

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Meeting participants shared individual joys and concerns for the Church, its members, and their families and for the community.

ADJOURNMENT WITH PRAYER

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm with prayer led by Dr. Forrest. The next regular meeting of Session will be held on March 18, 2024 in Galbreath Chapel.

Respectively submitted,

Approved:

William C. Ludwig
 Clerk of Session

