

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024
REGULAR MEETING OF SESSION

02756

On Monday, June 17, 2024, the 655th 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 7:05 pm.

Attending were Dr. Forrest and Rev. Bentley, and Elders Berrott, Eccher, Few, Galbreath, Hallums, Heilman, Jenkins, Locke, Ludwig, Marsh, McGee, Ralston, Rost, Sarraf, Waller, and Widmar, constituting a quorum.

BUSINESS

REPORT OF THE CLERK

A motion to approve the minutes of the 654th (May 6, 2024) regular meeting of Session was made, seconded, and approved.

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

BAPTISMS

May 26, 2024

Connor Joseph Stapor; Parents: Julie and Daniel Stapor

June 9, 2024

Aniyah Marli Jeannotte-Goncalves; Parents: Teresa Jeannotte and Heleno Gonclaves

June 16, 2024

Brynn Christine Coady; Parents: Brittany and Lucas Coady

Caroline Bichsel Weiss; Parents: Allison and Matthew Weiss

DEATHS

Bruce M. McClintock, May 24, 2024

Marjorie Zeller, May 24, 2024

Susan H. Redfield, June 13, 2024

MEMBERSHIP

Inactive by Request

Carolyn Rogers Bundschuh

David S. Copeland

Kristine English

Ben Hassett
Lauren Hassett
Larry Marynak
Kathleen Marynak
Pam Schwotzer
Erica Schwotzer
Patricia Smith

SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

During worship services on Sunday, June 2, 2024, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered to communicants.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Meeting Dates

Dr. Forrest reminded Session that the meeting of the General Assembly, PC USA, will be held from June 25 to July 4, 2024 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Report of the Associate Pastor's Search Committee and Recommendation of the Personnel Commission

Elder Andrew Marsh reported that the Associate Pastor search committee, after conducting an extensive search and interviews of candidates has nominated current Parish Associate Pastor Laura Bentley to fill the position of contract Associate Pastor of Westminster. After Rev. Bentley was excused temporarily from the meeting, Elder Marsh reviewed the search process that had occurred over several months, the interviews with several candidates, and the most recent interviews with Rev. Bentley. He stated that based on interviews and the performance of Rev. Bentley as Parrish Associate, the members of the search committee and of the Personnel Commission unanimously agreed that Rev. Bentley is the best candidate available to fill the position of Associate Pastor.

Elder Marsh reviewed the terms that are proposed and are acceptable to Rev. Bentley. A motion was made and seconded to offer Rev. Laura Bentley the position of contract Associate Pastor on the terms that Elder Marsh reported. After a brief and enthusiastic discussion, the motion was carried. Rev. Bentley returned to the meeting and was welcomed as Westminster's Associate Pastor.

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Forrest reported that construction for the new electrical panel is underway, as is evident from the large dirt pile and the fencing in front of the Church. She stated that Elder Page also has discussed construction plans with WECEP so it will be able to make any accommodations required for safety. She stated that WECEP recently held graduation ceremonies in the Sanctuary. WECEP will not offer a kindergarten program in the Fall of 2024 because the number of potential students will not support the cost of a kindergarten program.

Dr. Forrest also reported that the independent audit for 2023 has been completed. It was a "clean" audit with no notes or exceptions. She also reminded Session that Westminster recently implemented new accounting information technology that is expected to improve accounting functions and transparency.

In response to the recommendation of Elder Eccher, Dr. Forrest was pleased to inform Session that the annual Westminster Gala is being revived. The reimagined event will be held in February 2025. The financial goal will be to raise significant funds for the Endowment.

PARISH ASSOCIATE'S REPORT

Rev. Bentley reported that the new Care Team has been formed and that currently 26 Deacons and former Deacons are participating.

COMMISSION REPORTS AND ACTIONS

The following Commissions submitted written reports prior to the meeting:

Adult Spiritual Development
 Bridge
 Children's and Family Ministries/WECEP
 Community Engagement
 Endowment & Special Gifts
 Outreach
 Property
 Stewardship
 Youth Ministry

Elder Deborah Waller highlighted the financial information in the report of the Endowment Committee. She presented the specific distribution recommendations from Special as well as general Endowment funds. From Special Funds the Endowment Committee proposes the following distributions:

WROC sound system upgrade: \$13,443.31
 Sanctuary sound system upgrade: \$9331.11

Chancel Window Replacement: \$11,659.00

02759

Refurbishment of Sanctuary Organ: \$34,290.00

From general endowment funds the Endowment Committee recommends paying the entire amount authorized for distribution in 2024, \$156,801.00, to fund the request of the Property Commission for funds to be applied to the cost of replacing the electrical panel.

A motion was made and seconded to approve all the recommendations of the Endowment Committee. Following discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

LINE OF CREDIT WITH PNC BANK

Elder Heilman, Treasurer, recommended that Westminster open a \$500,000 line of credit with PNC Bank for the purpose of making payments, if needed while additional funds are being raised, for the remainder of the anticipated costs of replacing the electrical panel. A motion was made and seconded that the Treasurer be authorized open such a line of credit with PNC Bank and to draw on that line of credit at his discretion to pay expenses associated with replacement of the electrical panel. Following discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.

SHARING OF 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 August 18, 2024, in Galbreath Chapel.

Respectively submitted,



William C. Ludwig
Clerk of Session