

MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024
REGULAR MEETING OF SESSION

02745

On Monday, March 18, 2024, the 653rd 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 Rev. Bentley, and Elders Berrott, Eccher, Galbreath, Hallums, Heilman, Jenkins, Locke, Ludwig, Malarkey, McGee, Null, Page, Price, Ralston, Rost, Sarraf, Thornburgh, Waller, and Widmar, constituting a quorum.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Prior to the beginning of the business meeting, Beth Ketterman introduced the most recent class of new members who will be joining the Westminster congregation at services on March 24, 2024. The new members each gave a brief statement about themselves and their families and their reasons for joining Westminster. The members of Session introduced themselves to the new members and described their histories at Westminster and their roles on Session as well as their participation in other work at Westminster. Following the introductions, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to accept and welcome the new members into the congregation of Westminster.

BUSINESS

REPORT OF THE CLERK

A motion to approve the minutes of the 652nd (February 12, 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

March 17, 2024

Avery Jean Cox; parents: Timothy and Janelle Cox
Connor Edward O'Brien; parents: Sean and Kristen O'Brien

DEATHS

Raymond Keisling, March 6, 2024

MEMBERSHIP

Inactive by Request

Kira Brown
Mariah (Addie) Brown
Natalie Brown
Paul Brown
Meghan Canose
David Painter
James Painter
Kathy Painter
Rod Smith

Inactive by Session

Alyson Reiter
Bayley Reiter

New Members

Phyllis Etzel, Letter of Transfer
Jamie Ferris, Reaffirmation of Faith
Teresa Goncalves, Reaffirmation of Faith
Elizabeth Henson, Reaffirmation of Faith
Joanne Miller, Reaffirmation of Faith
Lauren Moore, Letter of Transfer
Kristen O'Brien, Reaffirmation of Faith
Sean O'Brien, Reaffirmation of Faith
Christopher Policz, Reaffirmation of Faith
Miranda Policz, Reaffirmation of Faith
Nancy Pratt, Reaffirmation of Faith
Thomas Pratt, Reaffirmation of Faith
Joy Tobin, Letter of Transfer
James Wiswall, Reaffirmation of Faith
Sarah Wiswall, Reaffirmation of Faith
Adam Wynne, Profession of Faith
Suzanne Wynne, Reaffirmation of Faith

SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

During worship services on Sunday, March 3, 2024, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered to communicants.

BUSINESS ITEMS**Engagement 2024+**

Dr. Forrest discussed the continuing development of small groups for worship, study, support, mission, and fellowship. She reminded members of the effectiveness of sending written notes and invitations to encourage participation, and she brought note cards and stamps for members to use for that purpose.

Spire Deadlines

Dr. Forrest advised the submission deadline for publication in the May 13, 2024, edition (*Eastertide*) is April 22, 2024.

Luncheon to Receive Confirmands

Dr. Forrest reminded Session that following the 11:00 a.m. worship service on April 21, 2024, a luncheon will be held in Fellowship Hall to introduce and receive Confirmands. She encouraged members of Session to attend and to meet this outstanding group of young people, to review their statements of faith, and to welcome them into the fellowship of Westminster.

Update on Property Improvements

Elder Tom Page, chair of the Property Commission provided a detailed update of ongoing property improvements as well as planning for a project to replace and upgrade major components of the primary electrical service for the Church. He informed Session that three projects are being funded by grants from the Endowment, specifically, improvements to the Sanctuary Sound System, including the installation of new speakers, improvements of the sound system in the WROC, and replacement of the Chancel windows. He explained that the sound system improvements in the Sanctuary and the WROC will enhance the quality of the sound for online worship as well as for those who attend in person.

Elder Page also reported that the bid documents will be sent April 3rd to ten contractors who have been identified as electrical contractors that can perform the work that will be required to replace and upgrade the primary electrical service. Bid proposals are expected by April 23rd, and the recommendation of the property commission of a contractor for the project, as well as the anticipated cost, will be presented to Session at the May 6, 2024, meeting.

In addition, Elder Page advised that he has uploaded to Sharepoint a living document that tracks the progress and costs of current and proposed property maintenance and improvement projects for 2024.

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Forrest announced that Harrison Burgess, who will graduate from the University of Pittsburgh this Spring, has accepted Westminster's offer of employment as Assistant Director of Youth Ministry, beginning May 6, 2024. She stated that a transition team is being formed to assist Harrison and that members of Session are encouraged to participate.

Dr. Forrest also reported on the continuing success of member-initiated ministry at Chartiers Bend Retirement Resort. Sandy Shanahan has reserved the theatre for every Sunday for the livestream broadcast of Westminster's 11:00 a.m. worship service. Participation is growing, and the number of regular attendees includes a resident who is a member of the current class of new members of Westminster.

PARISH ASSOCIATE'S REPORT

Rev. Bentley reported that she recently met with the Deacons and that she attended meetings at Friendship Village and Providence Point where members of the Refugee Project reported on the success of the most recent effort to assist a refugee family that is settling in Pittsburgh.

Rev. Bentley advised that she is working on the development of a Care Team at Westminster and on improving communications to identify members who need pastoral care.

COMMISSION REPORTS AND ACTIONS

The following Commissions submitted written reports prior to the meeting:

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

In addition to written reports, Elder Eccher, Chair of the Finance Commission, reported that the most recent month's financials aligned well with the budget and that the new financial system software is working well.

Elder Rost, Chair of the Personnel Commission, thanked everyone who participated in identifying, recruiting, and interviewing Harrison Burgess to fill the need for an Assistance Director of Youth Ministry.

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 8:45 pm with prayer led by Dr. Forrest. The next regular meeting of Session will be held on May 6, 2024, in Galbreath Chapel.

Respectively submitted,

Approved:

William C. Ludwig
Clerk of Session