

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2025
REGULAR MEETING OF SESSION**

02780

On Saturday, January 11, 2025, immediately following the annual fellowship and training retreat for Elders and Deacons, the 660th regular meeting of Session of Westminster Presbyterian Church was held in Fellowship Hall. Dr. Forrest was the Moderator and opened the meeting with prayer at 2:10 p.m.

Attending were Dr. Forrest and Rev. Bentley, and Elders Berrott, Conroy, Davis, Eccher, Few, Galbreath, Hallums, Ludwig, Malarkey, McGee, Null, Page, Price, Ralston, Sarraf, Serene, Thornburgh, Waller, and Widmar, constituting a quorum.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ELDERS

Dr. Forrest reintroduced the 2027 class of Elders, including new members Christopher Conroy and Harry Serene, as well as re-elected members Brian Eccher, Jerry Malarkey, Richard Ralston, and Deborah Waller.

REPORT OF THE CLERK

A motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting of January 6, 2025, of Session was made, seconded, and approved. No membership actions were presented for approval.

SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

During worship services on Sunday, January 5, 2025, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered to communicants.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Dr. Forrest reminded Session that the Annual Congregational, Ecclesiastical, and Corporation Meeting and the service to ordain and install officers will be held during a joint worship service at 10:00 a.m. on January 26, 2025, with a celebratory luncheon to follow.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Nominating Committee Update

Dr. Forrest reported that Jan Bauman, Carolyn Kerr, and Elders Few, Hallums, and Galbreath have been assisting in identifying members to serve on the Congregational Committee on Church Nominations, to be approved at the Congregational Meeting on January 26. That committee will be responsible for selecting nominees to be submitted to the Congregation for approval as members of the Pastor Nominating Committee. Once a slate of candidates has

been recommended by the Nominating Committee, Dr. Forrest will request that Session call a special meeting of the Congregation to approve the nominees who will serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee.

Concentration on Hands-on Mission

Dr. Forrest and Elder McGee led a discussion about the distribution of funds to outside organizations by Westminster and the Outreach Commission. Elder McGee explained that the Outreach Commission, with expanded input from other commissions such as Community Engagement, has evolved to focus its mission to support programs that encourage active participation of members of the Congregation. She stated that the Commission seeks to identify and to help fund organizations and programs that provide opportunities for members of Westminster to participate in hands-on mission, thereby establishing a direct connection between members and the missions that they support, as well as greater transparency of expenditures. As an example, she cited the aftercare program of City Mission, which offers the opportunity for Westminster volunteers to receive training to become mentors for individuals who have completed a City Mission recovery program.

COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Endowment and Special Gifts

Elder Waller reported that the Endowment and Special Gifts Committee has increased its specific assessment of requested grants and follow-up on the use and effectiveness of funds that it distributes. She gave an example of one grantee that did not even acknowledge receipt of the grant that it requested. She stated that the Committee intends to consider whether requested general grants coincide with the missions of Westminster and will “close the loop” by confirming receipt and use of funds by the grantee.

Community Engagement

Elder Meghan Widmar, Chair of the Community Engagement Commission, reminded Session that February is Hunger Awareness Month. As in past years, Westminster is sponsoring *Rise Against Hunger* on Saturday, February 22, 2025. Approximately 300 volunteers will package 40,000 meals. Westminster also underwrites the \$15,000 cost of those meals. She asked that members of Session encourage participation and donations from both members on non-members.

Property Commission

Elder Tom Page, Chair of the Property Commission, reported that the installation of the new electrical panel is complete except for landscaping. The conversion from the old panel to the new one will occur on January 20 and January 21. He reminded members that the Church will be closed on those days.

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 8:45 pm with prayer led by Dr. Forrest. The next regular meeting of Session will be held on March 17, 2025, in Galbreath Chapel.

Respectively submitted,



William C. Ludwig
Clerk of Session

Approved: