

**MONDAY, APRIL 21, 2025**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF SESSION**

**02791**

On Monday, April 21, 2025, the 662<sup>nd</sup> 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, Harrison Burgess, Laura Ecklin, Faith Kemmel and Elders Conroy, Davis, Eccher, Few, Hallums, Ludwig, Malarkey, McGee, Null, Page, Price, Ralston, Rost, Sarraf, Serene, Thornburgh, Waller, and Widmar, constituting a quorum.

**CONFIRMANDS RECEIVED**

Harrison Burgess, Youth Ministry Coordinator, introduced the current class of youth confirmands who will be received by the Congregation during worship on May 18, 2025:

Adriana Daniele	Lilly Kushner
Lyla Doak	Madeleine Thomas
Alexa Galbraith	Ashlee Wagner
Riley Green	Colby Zimmer
Caroline Jones	Nathaniel Zimmer

The Statements of Faith of the confirmands were posted on the shared drive for members of Session to review. Each confirmand gave a brief statement summarizing their personal thoughts about the confirmation classes and the curriculum. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to recommend that each member of the class be received by the Congregation. Dr. Forrest encouraged members to read the Statements of Faith and to send personal notes of congratulation and encouragement to these new members of Westminster.

**Report of the Clerk**

A motion to approve the minutes of the 661<sup>st</sup> (March 17, 2025) regular meeting of Session, was made, seconded, and approved. A motion was made, seconded, and was passed to approve the membership actions indicated below.

**DEATHS**

Robert Hossli, March 19, 2025

**MEMBERSHIP****Inactive by Request**

Elizabeth Bacheson

**Inactive; No Response**

To determine inactive members, a query was run in MyWPC for those who have not attended worship, given a gift, or signed into MyWPC since January 1, 2023. Letters were then sent to those 90 people, asking them to reply by April 11 if they wished to remain on the active roll. The letter explained that they did not respond, they would move to inactive status but would be reactivated if they ever wished to return. Six people responded that they wished to remain active. The following did not respond and were moved to inactive status.

Anna "Liz" Allwes Christian Friday Dan Long  
Thomas Archer Noah Friday Lisa Majesky  
Colleen Ashbaugh Michelle Friday Richard Majesky  
Martin Bacik Nanci Frisch Mark May  
Sandy Baker Ronald Frisch Kevin McGuire  
Robert "Scott" Baker John Gillen R. Evan Muffly  
Taylor Baker John Gilliland David Rex  
Beth Balach Marsha Gnagey Kristi Riesmeyer  
Corinne Bohjanen Carrie Golvash Ashley Robertson  
Julie Boles Patricia Haney Karen Rothamel  
Andrew Caldart Leslie Hanks Joseph Rubino  
Elke Caldart Ryan Hino Edward Rusnak  
Emma Caldart Shelley Hopkins Teresa Rusnak  
Jack Caldart Edward Horey Abigail Schnelzer  
Elizabeth Carmelite Lynne Hughes Roderick Smith  
Lynn Carson Mark Humenansky Sean Smith  
Lisa Clark Heather Jones Trish Smith  
Lora Le Clark Carolyn Kafafian Virginia Stein  
Mark Clark Jessica Kauffman Kelly Straight  
Tyler Clark David Kern Kelly Sukernek  
Stephen Condre Brian Knapp Deborah Thompson  
Alyssia Cupelli Carolyn Krakoff Bradford Wagner  
Sue Faust Randy Krakoff Deanna Watson  
Joyce Fowler Emily Krieger Connie West  
Randi Fowler Kevin Krieger John White  
William Frennier Dave Kropp Gregory Winks  
Michele Frennier Laura Kropp  
Brian Friday Leslie Kropp

## **SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

During worship services on Sunday, April 6, 2025, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered to communicants. Communion also was served to attendees of the Maundy Thursday service on April 17, 2025.

## **UPCOMING MEETING DATES**

Dr. Forrest reported the following scheduled meeting dates and topics:

Regular Session Meetings: May 19, 2025, August 18, 2025, September 15, 2025, October 20, 2025, and December 8, 2025. Pittsburgh Presbytery meeting May 22, 2025, at Eastminster. Combined worship service for Pentecost, June 8, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **Safe Church Policy**

Laura Ecklin, Youth Ministry and Administrative Manager, reviewed amendments to the Safe Church Policy, which were posted on the shared drive on March 17, 2025. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Safe Church Policy as amended. Following discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

### **Proceeds from Town Hall South**

Elder Waller, Chair of the Endowment Committee, reported that following the final charitable distribution, the balance of the account of Town Hall South was \$173,608.15. She explained that during its 53 years as a mission of Westminster, Town Hall South contributed approximately \$670,000 to charitable missions in the South Hills. Elder Waller made the following motion to honor and memorialize the work of Town Hall South:

WHEREAS, as a ministry of Westminster Presbyterian Church the Town Hall South program has provided 53 years of invigorating and extremely well received speakers' series that has touched many community members; and,

WHEREAS, the Town Hall South Committee wound down operations in the year 2024; and,

WHEREAS, the Westminster Session wishes to express grateful admiration to current and past Town Hall South Board members; and,

WHEREAS, the Westminster Session desires to honor and memorialize the 53 years of Town Hall South giving to mission.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Session of Westminster Presbyterian Church authorizes the remaining Town Hall South funds in the amount of \$173,608.15 to be placed in the "Westminster Endowment and Special Gifts Fund" as follows:

1. Town Hall South funds will remain in a Special Gift Account for 3 years, after which the funds will revert to the corpus of the Endowment to fund the church's missions in perpetuity.
2. During the initial 3 years, the Special Gift Account will be available as seed money to Reimagine community enrichment activities - primarily to promote a variety of views to stimulate understanding, critical thinking, and respect.

The motion was seconded and following discussion was approved unanimously.

#### **REQUEST OF FAITH KEMMLER TO BE RECEIVED AS AN INQUIRER FOR ORDINATION**

Dr. Forrest informed Session that Faith Kemmler, Director of Children's and Family Ministry, will complete her Masters Degree in Christian Education in June, 2025. Faith has decided to expand her ministry and to pursue a Master of Divinity degree, beginning in the Fall of 2025. She plans to enroll in Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte, North Carolina, which offers a hybrid program that will permit Faith to take many courses remotely so she can continue her work at Westminster. Faith desires to begin the preparation to become ordained as a minister of the Word and Sacrament. Dr. Forrest explained that the first step in that process is to become enrolled as an inquirer, a step that begins with the endorsement of the session of the sponsoring congregation. A motion for the Session of Westminster to endorse and sponsor Faith Kemmler to be enrolled as an Inquirer to become a minister of the Word and Sacrament was made, seconded, and unanimously passed.

#### **UPDATE ON PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Dr. Forrest reported that the PNC met on March 25, 2025, and has scheduled regular meetings every Tuesday. Dave Heilman was chosen by the committee to be its chairperson. The PNC has scheduled listening sessions for members of the congregation to ask questions, express concerns, and make recommendations. The committee also will meet with Jessica McClure Archer, General Minister of the Pittsburgh Presbytery, for guidance and assistance.

Dr. Forrest explained that the PNC has begun work on creating the Ministry Discernment Profile, which is the first step in the process of formally announcing the search and inviting applications for the position of Senior Pastor. Dr. Forrest advised that approval of the Ministry Discernment Profile by Session is required and that a special meeting of Session might be called for that purpose.

**SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT**

Dr. Forrest reported that 155 worshippers attended the Maundy Thursday service. Several members of Session commented that the presentation by ministers and staff was very meaningful and that the music was exceptional.

Dr. Forrest also reported that attendance at all services on Easter was very encouraging. She said that 187 people attended the 8:30 service, 348 attended the 9:45 contemporary service, and 458 attended the 11:00 service. An additional 145 worshippers viewed the service on YouTube.

Dr. Forrest reminded the session that the last day of service of Rev. Richard Norris, Seminary Intern, will be May 18, 2025. Richard will preach his Old Testament sermon, a requirement of his seminary curriculum, on May 7, 2025 at 6:15 p.m. in Galbreath Chapel. Comments on the sermon will be encouraged.

Dr. Forrest stated that Richard has become a reliable, creative, and talented member of the staff of Westminster and will be greatly missed. She added that his contributions have demonstrated Westminster's need for three ordained ministers.

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT**

Rev. Bentley reported that the Deacons delivered Easter flowers to 45 residences. Deacons also participated in community events at Providence Point and Friendship Village and have attended remote worship services at Chartiers Bend.

Rev. Bentley announced that she has begun a podcast titled BiteSize Bible, which will feature ten-minute conversations about reading about reading and understanding the Bible. A new episode will be posted every Tuesday.

She also informed members that she will leave soon for Edinburgh, Scotland where she will participate in a seven-day pilgrimage.

**COMMISSION and COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The following commissions and committees submitted written reports prior to the meeting:

Adult Spiritual Development  
Bridge  
Children's and Family Ministry  
Communications  
Endowment and Special Gifts

In addition to the written reports, Roberta Sarraf, Chair of the Worship Commission reported on that Commission's ongoing evaluation of the number of worship services. She stated the average attendance at the current services is 70 for the 8:30 service, 113 for the 9:45 service, and 140 for the 11:00 service. She said that the Commission investigated services at 19 area churches and found that 6 of those offer 3 services on Sunday. Session members who attend the 8:30 and 9:45 services suggested that problems related to the short time between services might be reduced by scheduling the early service at 8:15 and the contemporary service at 9:30, thereby expanding the amount of time between the contemporary service and the 11:00 a.m. service. Several members agreed that before a decision is made to discontinue the early service, more discussion should be held with members who attend that service. A conversation with those members will be scheduled to follow the service on May 8, 2025.

On behalf of the Property Commission, Elder Page reported that the landscaping for the Let There Be Light campaign is finished and that the project has been completed under budget. Members thanked Elder Page for his guidance and leadership.

### **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 9:05 pm with prayer led by Rev. Bentley. The next meeting of Session will be held on May 19, 2025, at 7:00 pm in Galbreath Memorial Chapel.

Respectively submitted,



William C. Ludwig  
Clerk of Session

Approved:

