

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024
REGULAR MEETING OF SESSION

02774

On Monday, December 2, 2024, the 659th 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, Few, Galbreath, Hallums, Heilman, Locke, Ludwig, Malarkey, McGee, Null, Page, Price, Rost, Sarraf, and Thornburgh, constituting a quorum.

INTRODUCTION OF GENERAL MINISTER

Dr. Forrest welcomed Rev. Jessica McClure Archer, the recently elected General Minister of the Pittsburgh Presbytery. Rev. McClure Archer provided a summary of her background and of her vision for her new ministry at the Presbytery. The elders introduced themselves, and each gave a brief statement of their involvement and of what they enjoy most about Westminster.

REPORT OF THE CLERK

A motion to approve the minutes of the 658th (October 21, 2024) regular meeting of Session was made, seconded, and approved. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the membership actions indicated below. In addition, the Clerk reported that the Presbytery recently completed its review of the 2023 minutes and roles and registers of Westminster and approved them with commendation.

BAPTISMS

November 17, 2024

Keira Devi Allebrand: Parents, Maya and Sean Allebrand

Jacob David Stutzman: Parents, Allison and Jared Stutzman

DEATHS

Arthur S. Ellis, November 24, 2024

James D. Douglas, November 27, 2024

Bill Thomas, November 30, 2024

SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

During worship services on Sunday, November 3, 2024, and Sunday, December 1, 2024, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered to communicants.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

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

Pittsburgh Presbytery December 12, 2024

Session Meeting December 2, 2024, Approval of 2025 Operating Budget

Officer Retreat, January 10, 2025, in the Sanctuary and January 11, 2025, in Fellowship Hall

Annual Meeting, January 26, 2025, install and ordain officers, congregational luncheon

BUSINESS ITEMS

Review of Proposed 2025 Operating Budget

Elder Brian Eccher gave a detailed report concerning 2024 revenue and expenses for all phases of Church operations. He estimated that Westminster will have a net operating loss of approximately \$38,000, which is close to the 2024 budgeted loss. He advised that the payments on the loan from the Endowment further increased the cash outflow and reduced the cash balance. After presenting the detailed draft of the 2025 budget, Elder Eccher noted that the total expense proposed is a net increase of only 2%. He pointed out, however, that there is no indication of an increase in pledge amounts in the near term and that the percentage of members who pledge remains low. Consequently, even a very small increase in expenses, many of which are not discretionary, will cause the operating loss in 2025 to double that of 2024. He cautioned that Westminster must increase revenue, primarily from contributions, to achieve a balanced budget and prevent significant reduction in the cash accounts.

Following the presentation of the draft budget, members of Session discussed the challenge of increasing revenue, with emphasis on expanding the base of members who pledge and contribute regularly.

The consensus of Session was that final approval of the 2025 budget should be deferred pending the potential receipt of pledges in December from members who have not pledged but who reasonably might be expected to submit a pledge for 2025. Accordingly, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to table final approval of the 2025 budget and to hold a special meeting of Session for that purpose at 7:00 PM on January 6, 2025 by Zoom.

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Forrest confirmed that after considering the desires of members, the Worship Commission determined that traditional Christmas Eve services will be held in the Sanctuary at 3:00 PM and 8:00 PM, and the contemporary service will be held at 5:00 PM. She also reconfirmed that the 2025 officer's retreat will take place at Westminster on January 10th and 11th and stated that the theme of the retreat will be, "How do I serve." Dr. Forrest also recognized and thanked Elders Dave Heilman, Sara Locke, and Logan Carmichael for their years of dedicated service as

members of Session. She stated that in 2025, Chris Conroy and Harry Serene will be welcomed as new members of Session.

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ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT

Rev. Bentley reported that the Deacons Care Team has increased to twelve members and that they are reaching out to members who are home bound. She also reported on the success of the Grief Care program and the many opportunities of the Christmas season to connect with people in need.

COMMISSION and COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

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

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 9:00 pm with prayer led by Rev. Bentley. The next meeting of Session will a special meeting to be held via Zoom on January 6, 2025.

Respectively submitted,



William C. Ludwig
Clerk of Session

Approved:

