

**MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2025
SPECIAL MEETING OF SESSION**

02777

On Monday, January 6, 2025, the Session of Westminster Presbyterian Church held a special meeting by Zoom remote to review and approve Westminster's operating budget for 2025. 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, Davis, Eccher, Few, Galbreath, Hallums, Ludwig, Malarkey, McGee, Null, Page, Price, Ralston, Rost, Sarraf, Serene, Thornburgh, Waller, and Widmar, constituting a quorum.

REPORT OF THE CLERK

A motion to approve the minutes of the 659th (December 2, 2024) regular meeting of Session was made, seconded, and approved. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the membership actions indicated below.

BAPTISM

December 22, 2024

Levi Robert Falconer, Parents: Emily and Eric Falconer

MARRIAGE

Mia Scott and Matthew Lemarie, December 12, 2024

DEATHS

Richard Cummins, November 27, 2024

MEMBERSHIP

Inactive by Request

Art Brown

Lauren Hart

SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

During worship services on Sunday, January 5, 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:

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 continued the presentation of the proposed 2025 operating budget. He summarized the information that he had presented during the December 2, 2025, regular meeting of Session and restated the potential deficit projections if revenue does not increase in the next few years. Elder Eccher reported that the Finance Commission strongly recommends that Session should establish and maintain a balanced operating budget for 2025. He stated that although the need for an increase in revenue was addressed clearly during the recent stewardship campaign, revenues for 2025 are projected to be approximately the same as those of 2024, while costs continue to rise. Consequently, the Finance Commission has proposed total reductions of \$77,000 to achieve a balanced budget. Members of Session reviewed and discussed each category of the proposed reductions as well as anticipated revenue and expenses.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed budget. Following a thorough discussion, the question was called and the motion to approve the 2025 operating budget was approved unanimously.

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Forrest informed Session that she expects to retire in the Spring of 2026. She stated that she is giving notice of her intentions far in advance because she believes that careful succession planning is vital to maintain the momentum of Westminster's ministries. Dr. Forrest suggested that Session should consider recommending that the Congregation appoint a Pastor Nominating Committee to begin the process of identifying and calling a successor, rather than waiting to appoint an interim pastor and begin a search closer to her retirement date.

To lead a discussion of succession planning and of the options for calling a senior pastor and managing a transition, Dr. Forrest reintroduced Rev. Jessica McClure Archer, General Minister of the Pittsburgh Presbytery. The Session then went into executive session. Rev. McClure Archer led an extended discussion in which all members of Session offered their opinions about the best option to transition from one senior pastor to another with the least disruption of the missions of Westminster. The consensus of Session was to follow Dr. Forrest's recommendation to appoint a PNC to begin the process so a new senior pastor can be called before Dr. Forrest retires.

A motion was made and seconded that after Dr. Forrest has an opportunity to inform the staff and the Congregation of her long-term plans, Session will recommend the appointment of a Pastor Nominating Committee that will begin the process of seeking and evaluating candidates

with the hope of calling a successor shortly before Dr. Forrest retires. Following further discussion, the motion 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 8:45 pm with prayer led by Dr. Forrest. The next regular meeting of Session will be held on January 11, 2025, in Fellowship Hall.

Respectively submitted,



William C. Ludwig
Clerk of Session

Approved: