

MONDAY, MAY 19, 2025
REGULAR MEETING OF SESSION

02796

On Monday, May 19, 2025, the 663rd 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, Conroy, Few, Hallums, Galbreath, Ludwig, Malarkey, McGee, Null, Page, Ralston, Rost, Sarraf, Serene, Thornburgh, Waller, and Widmar, constituting a quorum.

Report of the Clerk

A motion to approve the minutes of the 662nd (April 21, 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.

BAPTISM

May 18, 2025

Lyla Madeline Doak; Parents: Jennifer and Joshua Doak

DEATHS

Patricia Melton, April 28, 2025

John McAdoo, May 4, 2025

MEMBERSHIP

Inactive by Request

Jo Ann Pitcock

SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

During worship services on Sunday, May 4, 2025, and Sunday, June 1, 2025, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered to communicants.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

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

Regular Session Meetings: June 16, 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**Approve Rev. Laura Bentley's Terms of Call**

Elder Denise Rost, Chair of the Personnel Commission, reported that the Personnel Commission recently reviewed the performance of Rev. Laura Bentley following her promotion to the position of Associate Pastor. Members of the Commission all agreed that the work of Rev. Bentley has been outstanding and that she has earned an increase in compensation. Elder Rost, on behalf of the Personnel Commission, moved that the base salary and housing allowance of Rev. Bentley be increased from \$85,000 to \$92,000. The motion was seconded, and following discussion, Session unanimously approved the motion to increase the base compensation, including housing allowance, of Rev. Bentley to \$92,000, effective July 1, 2025.

Update on Pastor Nominating Committee

Dr. Forrest reported that the PNC has completed a draft of the Ministry Discernment Profile, subject to review by the Presbytery. To date, Rev. Jessica McClure Archer, General Minister, has not been available to meet with the Committee, but that meeting is expected to occur within the next two weeks. The MDP will then be submitted to Session for approval before being uploaded to the PCUSA website. The search will then be officially announced and posted by the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) of the PCUSA. Dr. Forrest explained that the PNC's search will not be limited to candidates who respond to the CLC. After the MDP has been posted, the PNC will expand its search for candidates to include recommendations from members, inquiries to seminaries, and direct inquiries from potential candidates. Dr. Forrest suggested that approval of the MDP by Session should not be delayed until the June 19, 2025 regular meeting. She stated that the MDP will be posted on the shared drive following the anticipated meeting with the General Minister of the Presbytery. Session agreed to hold a special meeting by Zoom on June 2, 2025 at 6:00 pm to approve the Ministry Discernment Profile.

Approval of 2025 Endowment Grant Distribution

Elder Deborah Waller, Chair of the Endowment Committee, presented and moved for approval of the recommendation of that Committee for distributions in 2025. She reported the Endowment Committee met on April 30, 2025. The total annual grant amount available for 2025 is \$160,000 (4% of the fair market value of the endowment assets as of the last business day of Year 2024). The Endowment Committee recommends the following grants totaling \$160,000 be approved by Session:

- (1) \$10,550 application from the Children's & Family Ministry Commission to start up Nursery Care for families during Sunday morning worship.
- (2) \$80,000 application from the Worship Commission for a new console for the Sanctuary Organ.

(3) \$30,000 to the newly formed Mission & Fellowship Commission as a vote of confidence and investment in this new Commission. Subject to the purposes of the Endowment as follows:

The Westminster Presbyterian Church of Upper St. Clair

Declaration of Endowment

Article III, Section B.6.(B) As to undesignated gifts,

1. programs which will enable Westminster Church to expand its existing Christian ministry to its own membership and to the community at large;
2. non-recurring capital expenses beyond the scope of the normal operating budget, and
3. special short-term need to start or revitalize projects which support Westminster Church's Christian ministry

(4) \$39,450 to "Special Property Needs" Special Gift Fund

The motion of Elder Waller to approve the recommendations of the Endowment Committee for distributions for 2025 was seconded. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Elder Waller also reported that Special Gift Funds disbursements have been approved as follows (Session approval is not required):

- (1). Special Property Needs
 - a. Rev. Laura Bentley Office Renovation \$10,897.20
 - b. Fellowship Hall Kitchen Convection Oven \$9829.00

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Forrest reported that Anna Hiner, WPC's Membership and Communications Coordinator, has given notice that she will retire on June 30, 2025. Anna has served Westminster faithfully for 18 years and has been a blessing to members and staff. Dr. Forrest said that current staff will assume portions of Anna's work in the near term and that a new position will be created to begin the search for someone who has Anna's unique combination of technical skills and ability to relate to members.

Dr. Forrest also reviewed with Session the financial results overview through April 2025 that the Finance Commission posted recently of the shared drive.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT

Rev. Bentley reported on her recent study trip to Scotland. She stated that she was able to attend worship at St. Giles Cathedral. She stated that the current condition of the Church of

Scotland is discouraging, with members and solvency declining and only twenty people attending seminary.

Rev. Bentley reviewed the recent activities of the Deacons. Several recently attended listening sessions at Providence Point and Friendship Village. Westminster youth from JAM attended a question and answer session at Friendship Village.

Rev. Bentley also reported that the Deacons will serve extended communion on June 1.

COMMISSION and COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

- Adult Spiritual Development
- Communications
- Endowment and Special Gifts
- Finance
- Mission and Fellowship
- Property
- Stewardship
- Youth Ministry

In addition to the written reports, Roberta Sarraf, Chair of the Worship Commission reported that following the 8:30 service on June 1, 2025, a meeting will be held to hear questions, concerns, opinions, and recommendations of members who attend the 8:30 service, as well as any others who wish to attend, concerning the issue of discontinuing or changing the time of the early traditional worship service. She will report to Session with the recommendation of the Worship Commission regarding discontinuing the 8:30 service or moving it to a slightly earlier time.

On behalf of the Bridge Commission, Elder Few reported that additional volunteers are needed to assist with set-up for the Contemporary Service. He stated that as attendance at that service has grown, the time and effort required to prepare the Bridge for worship has exceeded the reasonable limitations of the small group of current volunteers.

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 Rev. Bentley. The next regular meeting of Session will be held on June 16, 2025, at 7:00 pm in Galbreath Memorial Chapel. A Special Meeting of Session to review and approve the Ministry Discernment Profile will be held via Zoom on June 2, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

Respectively submitted,



William C. Ludwig
Clerk of Session

Approved: