

Highlights from the July 2024 Session Meeting

The regular Session meeting was held on July 16, 2024. Devotions were centered on the new church vision statement. After opening prayer and devotions, Session received the reports of staff, standing committees, and the Report of the Clerk and voted to approve all reports and items of a routine nature from committees and staff in the Consent Agenda. Items approved included:

Informational:

- Total attendance figures for June 2024: **335** attended in-person Worship Services and **400** viewed services on-line. Average **Sunday** Worship attendance for the last several months: June **147**, May 168, April, 227, March, 258, February, 226, January 2024, 217; December 2023, 271, November, 181, October, 168; September, 189; August, 159, July, 160. Average weekly Sunday Worship attendance for 2023 was 193. Average weekly Sunday Worship attendance for 2024 is **207**.

- I. Finance Report** – Interim Business Administrator and Treasurer Sandy Campbell advised Session that the sale of 8 East Franklin was completed on July 9 and the accounting for the sale will appear in the July financial packet next month. A total of about \$476,000 will be realized after the satisfaction of the mortgage which happened last week. The endowment fund to be set up for the support of the facilities will consist of approximately \$297,000 and \$178,448 will flow through to cash accounts in the balance sheet to fund the designated fund area. The Finance Committee is reviewing the possibility of naming the two endowment funds to distinguish the purpose of each. Discussions are underway to determine if the 25 % of the current endowment that supports the capital reserve account should be moved to the new endowment thus creating a “missions” endowment and a “facilities” endowment.

Elder John Walton, Chair of Finance reviewed the financial statements distributed with the Session packet. Receipts for June 2024 totaled \$48,620 compared to June 2023’s total of \$50,886. Expenses for the first six months of 2024 are down 30.8% from the first six months of 2023 and stands at 44.7% of total budgeted expenses for 2024, halfway through the year (if on budget, it would be at 50%). The surplus for the first six months of 2024 is in the amount of \$2,104 compared to the first six months of 2023 which produced a deficit of \$30,314. This surplus for 2024 is mostly driven by cost reductions in the salary lines. It was also noted that mission payments are ahead of schedule with 74% of the budgeted monies being paid out in the first six months of 2024 compared to 49% for 2023.

II. Ongoing/Old Business

- A. The Session received an update on the search for the position of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Director. The committee will be interviewing a new candidate next week. The search committee advised Session of the need to use LinkedIn to generate more resumes and the expense will be about \$500. The Session had no objection to using funds

from the Session Expense account to help with this if funds are not available in Children and Youth accounts.

III. New Business

- A. A **motion** was made by Elder Kalemkarian and seconded by Elder Walton to establish a formal Technical Ministries Committee to lead audio, video, streaming, conferencing, network, computer and phone services. The committee will manage the following budget and fund: Operating Budget: 8500 Technical Ministries and Designated Reserve / Donor Fund: 3565 Technology Fund. Initial Committee Members will include Scott MacDonald, Mark Gible, Tom Palmer, Chad Sanford, and Art Kalemkarian (2024 - 2025 chair). It was noted by Elder Tuton that the Property Committee is in full support of this motion. Session **APPROVED** the motion.
- B. A **motion** from the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) requesting Session to approve the Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) which was completed by the PNC and permit the MDP to be submitted to the Commission on Ministry (COM) of the Philadelphia Presbytery to start the process of receiving interested candidates from the Louisville office of the General Assembly. Several questions and comments were made regarding a “Clergy Couple” category and the number of years of experience needed of candidates. Questions were answered by Elder MacDonald, Rev. Cagle and the Clerk. Motion was **APPROVED**. The Clerk will notify the COM via a letter.
- C. A **motion** from the Outreach Committee requesting approval to hold a Craft Bazaar event on Saturday, November 30, 2024, using both Dale Hall and Hassler Chapel with time TBD was **APPROVED**.
- D. A **motion** from the Outreach Committee requesting approval of Session to enter a float into the Media Borough Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 1, 2024, was **APPROVED**. The float will again be a nativity theme featuring MPC Cornerstone Kids.
- E. The Session was asked to approve the request of Mr. and Mrs. Mickey Somsanith (both members) to baptize their minor daughters Mira and Olive on Sunday, September 22, 2024, at the 10:00 AM Worship service with Rev. Cagle officiating, The request was **APPROVED**.

Joseph Hare
Clerk of Session