

Highlights from the May 2024 Session Meeting

The regular Session meeting was held on May 21, 2024. 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:

1. Total attendance figures for April 2024: **429** attended in-person Worship Services and **477** viewed services on-line. Average **Sunday** Worship attendance for the last several months: 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 **232**.
2. The following electronic votes were conducted by Session:
 - A. On April 22, 2024, a request to conduct a Memorial Service for Julia Ann Reynolds, (nm), on Saturday, May 11, 2024, at 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary. Rev Rose Sparrow officiating. Tally was 17 members voting in the affirmative and one not voting.
 - B. On April 23, 2024, a request for baptisms to be conducted on Sunday, April 28, 2024, at the 10:00 AM Worship Service. Rev. Dr. David Cagle officiating. Those being baptized: August Joseph (AJ) Lardon, IV, an adult, and Elijah Paul Tamulavage-Johnson and Aria Ember Garcia, both minor children of member Laura Tamulavage. Tally was 18 affirmative votes.
 - C. The baptism of Aria Ember Garcia was not conducted on Sunday, April 28, 2024, but will be scheduled for a later date.
3. The Clerk received notification from the Congregational Nominating Committee that Peter Ellis, a member of MPC, was added to the slate of candidates for the Pastoral Nominating Committee which will be elected at the Special Congregational Meeting scheduled for Sunday, May 19, 2024, following the 10:00 AM Worship Service.

Action Items:

1. The following changes in membership status were approved, effective May 21:
 - a. Dr. David Ananthan Chellappa, register # 4286, and his wife Dr. Sheila Chellappa, register # 4287 moved to Doylestown, PA per Deacon Susan Hare on-line directory project.
 - b. Ryan David Helwig, register # 4574, and his wife Alyssa Helwig, register # 4575, request removal from the rolls per Deacon Hare on-line directory project.
 - c. James Hutton Koenig, register # 4447, per his father's request to transfer to inactive status on rolls per Deacon Hare on-line directory project. Has moved out of the area.
 - d. Thomas Jeffrey Koenig, register # 4377, per his father's request to transfer to inactive status on rolls per Deacon Hare on-line directory project. Has moved out of the area.

- e. Robert Skoog, register # 3539, and his wife Lee Skoog, register # 3538 request removal from the rolls in communications with Deacon Belle Patton on-line directory project. Moved out of the area.
 - f. Stephanie Lynn Palmore, register # 4106, requests removal from the rolls. Has not attended for 20 years per Deacon Hare on-line directory project.
2. The following motions from the Worship Committee were approved:
- a. A motion to approve David and Sara Treece as guest preachers on Sunday, June 23, 2024.
 - b. A motion to approve communion to be served each Sunday, at the pastor's discretion, from June 2, 2024, to the end of 2024.

I. Finance Report – Elder Sandy Campbell reviewed the financial statements distributed with the Session packet. Receipts for April 2024 totaled \$52,880 compared to April 2023 total of \$85,911. The disparity in monthly revenue figures is a result of the date when Easter occurred last year versus 2024. Expenses for the first four months of 2024 are down 25% from 2023's first four months. The surplus for the first four months of 2024 is in the amount of \$3,670 compared to the first four months of 2023 which produced a deficit of \$29,524. This surplus for 2024 is mostly a result of cost reductions in the salary lines.

II. Ongoing/Old Business

A. Elder Robyn Smith gave the following update on the Kids Kampus:

The Ad Hoc Committee will continue with a daycare feasibility study; however, the recommendation to Session is that a potential daycare be tabled at this time. The Committee will revisit a potential daycare when either a Pastor or Children's, Youth & Family Director is hired. The Committee believes it is in the best interest for Kids Kampus to remain in their current location if the Presbytery will allow. The Committee will offer to work with Kids Campus and the Presbytery to advocate remaining in their current location (formerly Trinity Presbyterian Church). The Committee will offer their assistance to Kids Campus to help identify other leads for Kids Kampus. The Committee will complete their due diligence regarding whether MPC is a viable opportunity for Kids Kampus, or any daycare, after a new Pastor and/or Children's, Youth & Family Director has been hired..

B. Elder Paul Tutton reviewed the status of the search for a new commercial liability insurance policy. Our current carrier has advised us of non-renewal effective mid-June. Only one proposal was offered by Sovereign Insurance Group (through contact from the presbytery). An independent broker was asked to search for a new carrier, but no other insurance company would write a proposal due to our previous claims' history. The current proposal on the table is for approximately the same cost as last year but the deductible is now listed at \$10,000 versus \$2,500 under the old Brotherhood Mutual policy. A **motion** from the Property Committee requests that Elder Tutton be authorized to sign off on the Sovereign Insurance Group proposal with a cost of \$13,094. Questions were raised about the possibility of asking for a reduction in the deductible for 2025 and Elder Tutton has an email from Sovereign stating that that is a possibility. After time

for discussion, the previous question was called and seconded and passed by a 2/3rds majority to end the debate. The **main motion** was then **APPROVED**.

- C. An offer to purchase the property at 8 East Franklin for \$700,000 was received today with a May 31 deadline for acceptance. Elder Kalemkarian briefed Session on the status of talks with Bill Strine of Media Real Estate. He expects to speak with Mr. Strine within the next seven days and will report back via a specially called Session meeting via Zoom if necessary. A **motion** was made by the Ad Hoc Committee to decline the offer and advise the agent that we will get back to them with further information in early June. **Motion** was **APPROVED**. Elder Campbell advised Session that she has spoken to Jim Wagner, Business Administrator of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, regarding the sale and approval by the presbytery should not be an issue but they will want to know how the proceeds are going to be used. A congregational meeting will need to be called for the congregation to approve the concept of the sale of the property and the final Agreement of Sale will be executed by Session through the president and/or secretary of the corporation (MPC).

The policy on gift/donation return was **APPROVED** as distributed.

III. New Business

- A. May 22, 2024 is Ro D'Angelo's last day of employment at MPC and the Finance Committee requests permission to advise via a letter to the Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union that Ms. D'Angelo be removed as a signatory to the bank accounts held at FMFCU. The **motion** was **APPROVED**.
- B. Session discussed and approved a plan to support Rev. Rose's efforts to become certified to serve churches within the Presbytery of Philadelphia.

Joseph Hare
Clerk of Session