

Highlights from the June 2024 Session Meeting

The regular Session meeting was held on June 18, 2024. Devotions were centered on the new church mission and 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 May 2024: **313** attended in-person Worship Services and **357** viewed services on-line. Average **Sunday** Worship attendance for the last several months: 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 **219**.
- The following electronic votes were conducted by Session:
Electronic Vote on the sale of 8 East Franklin Street property was requested on June 6, 2024. Two options were presented for a vote:

Ø **Bidder 1** Is a contractor who intends to renovate and flip the house.

Offer \$735,000 All cash and waived inspections. Buyers pay their own Realtor Commission.

Ø **Bidder 2** Is the couple who want to renovate and live in the house.

Offer \$750,000 All cash but wants a building inspection. **Will not use results of the inspection to renegotiate the price.** They want to verify that they have not overlooked anything major and/or onerous. Buyers pay their own Realtor Commission.

Bidder #2 for the highest bid price of \$750,000 was **APPROVED** by a vote of thirteen (13) in the affirmative, one (1) voting no to both offers, and four (4) not voting. It was subsequently announced that the Agreement of Sale has been signed and that settlement is scheduled for June 27, 2024.

- The Clerk requested approval for 19 members to be removed from the rolls due to inactivity and, Michael and Andria Kasky, and Megan and Morgan Smith requested change to inactive status. Also, Sue and Jack Masters were transferred to Westminster Presbyterian Church. This brings total membership to 402. Session **APPROVED** all changes.
- The Outreach Committee received approval to hold a free concert on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 7:30 PM featuring Irish singer Charlie Zahm (once in a generation baritone) and master fiddler Tad Marks. The program will include local Irish dancers, Celtic music, and storytelling.

Finance Report – Elder Sandy Campbell reviewed the financial statements distributed with the Session packet. Receipts for May 2024 totaled \$48,709 compared to May 2023 total of \$69,292. Expenses for the first five months of 2024 are down 25% from the first five months of 2023. The surplus for the first four months of 2024 is in the amount of \$2,567 compared to the first five months of 2023 which produced a deficit of \$23,620. This surplus for 2024 is mostly a driven by cost reductions in the salary lines. It was also noted that mission payments are ahead of schedule with 63% of the budgeted monies being paid out in the first five months of 2024 compared to 41% for 2023.

A new check request form was devised by Sandy in both digital and hard copy form. Requests may now be submitted electronically or in hard copy form. Receipts and invoices supporting the check request may also be submitted electronically.

A motion from the Finance Committee was **APPROVED** to establish a special designated fund to temporarily house the funds from the sale of 8 East Franklin until a permanent endowment fund can be established. Finance Committee will explore the use of the Presbyterian Foundation to establish an endowment. It was the sense of Session that no money from the sale be used in the operating accounts and that a full accounting of all monies received be made so that Session has a complete understanding of the available funds.

Elder Paul Tutton advised Session that a new Commercial and Liability insurance policy was secured through Sovereign Group for about the same price as the former insurance policy but with an increase in the deductible from \$2,500 to \$10,000. He also informed Session of the failure of the Kesel House first floor air conditioner unit and the estimate \$13,000 to replace it and the discussion followed on the funding of capital improvements.

Elder MacDonald reported on the progress of the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC). The PNC has met three times in June. The first meeting was an orientation meeting with the Commission on Ministry (COM) of the Philadelphia Presbytery explaining the resources available from them to the committee. During this first meeting, the committee made organizational appointments with Betsy Podrebarac and Eric MacDonald being appointed as co-chairs, Sandi Gatch as corresponding secretary, Susan Kassab as recording secretary, and Joe Hare providing the devotions each week. The PNC is meeting weekly on Mondays and will have the Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) available for Session approval at the July meeting of Session. The COM will approve the MDP in early August and the PNC would then be able to enter the form onto the PCUSA system and start receiving candidates for review.

The Session received an update on the search for the position of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Director. The committee has revised the position description to make it flow better and reminds all that any referrals are appreciated.

Under “New Business”, Session **APPROVED** the resignation of Elder Sandra Campbell effective June 30, 2024, from active service as she will assume the position of interim Business Administrator upon Jack Schoen’s retirement. In conjunction with this, Sandy is stepping down as chair of the Finance Committee and Session **APPROVED** Elder John Walton to assume the chairmanship of that committee effective July 1, 2024.

Session also **APPROVED** two corporate resolutions, one changing the bank signatories for the accounts with Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union to John Walton, Sandy Campbell, and Joe Hare. The second corporate resolution changed the corporate officers effective July 1, 2024, to John Walton, President, Sandra Campbell, Treasurer, and Joe Hare, Corporate Secretary.

Elder Kalemkarian discussed the replacement of the sound and video system in the church since many components are reaching the end of their useful life during 2025 and 2026. The estimated cost for this work is approximately \$60,000 and there is currently \$25,000 in the Technology designated fund account 3565. He was approached by a member of the congregation offering a \$2,500 matching gift to assist in raising funds and awareness of the need for this important service to the church. Session **APPROVED** the gift and Elder Kalemkarian will work on the details of fund raising from the congregation.

Joseph Hare
Clerk of Session