

## Session – August 2023

The regular meeting of Session was on Tuesday, August 29, 2023. The clerk reported that a packet was mailed to members of the congregation on July 31 which included a letter summarizing actions from the July Session meetings, a copy of “Seeking to be Faithful Together: Guidelines for Presbyterians in Times of Disagreement”, and a letter regarding being a More Light congregation. Letters were also sent to members who asked to be removed from offices, committees and/or membership, noting that Session is not acting on their requests at this time and inviting them to participate in the mediation process.

The candidate for Intentional Interim Pastor, the Rev. William Meyer, was invited to share his background. He noted that “intentional interim ministry” is more than “watering the flowers”; it focuses on a period of planning and visioning by Session and the congregation as to how best to accomplish the work of Christ. Only after a clearer vision of our ministry is determined should we proceed with the search for a regular pastor. Personnel noted his skills, credentials and open mind. By a unanimous vote, Session agreed to hire Rev. William Meyer as Intentional Interim Pastor per the terms included in the Letter and Covenant as provided, with a starting date of September 1, 2023. [He was approved by Presbytery’s Committee on Ministry the next day.]

Plans would be for Bill to be introduced to the congregation September 3, preside over communion September 10, and preach beginning September 17. Rev. Sandy Selby would still be scheduled September 3 and 10. The Covenant will be distributed to the congregation and made available for members to sign.

Session the decided to defer the discussion on appointing a task force and potentially selecting an outside Mediation and Conflict Resolution group [as approved in Motions 2023-113 and -114] to give the interim pastor some time to more clearly assess the situation, noting discussion can be resumed.

In regular business, preliminary unaudited data through July 31, 2023: actual revenues \$311,738; budgeted \$280,711. Actual expenses \$292,858; budget \$346,984. Net (actual revenues less actual expenses) is a surplus of \$18,880. Contributions have been falling. Personnel expenses are below budget; if we had a full-time pastor January through July we would have a deficit of around \$20,000. Other committee reports were distributed.