

Session – February 2024

The regular meeting of Session was on Tuesday, February 27, 2024.

Rev. Barry Chance, Moderator, discussed officer training for elders and deacons, which will focus on the confessions of the PCUSA, the Book of Order, church Bylaws and Manual of Operations, and discussing leadership, strategic issues, scope of committee work, and personal expressions of faith. Tentative dates are March 23 and April 13.

The Personnel and discipleship committees are to review recommended changes to the church's Child Protection Policy and report back to Session.

Rev. Meyer noted that Sunday's luncheon and presentation by the International Welcome / Immigrant Center was a huge success. He then said that the "elephant in the room" is that "we do not have a sustainable envelope", we have too much space. He added that one-third of our budget is covered by reserve funds. He asked Session to work out 4 to 6 "sustainability scenarios", discussions we need to begin. This is not related to any potential merger nor effort to sell the church building. Rather, it is to provide some potential options for the congregation to discuss. He went on to say that said we need a vision to solve the big problems of our community, with input from the congregation. A pastoral candidate needs answers: what is the church's vision, what are their goals? Do they have the financial, personnel and other resources to achieve this? Is the pastor expected to do it all? Candidates interviewed last year may not have gotten satisfactory answers to these questions. We need to be better prepared for the resumed search.

Final unaudited data through December 31, 2023: actual revenues \$506,847; budgeted \$474,285. Actual expenses \$516,032; budget \$603,483. Net (actual revenues less actual expenses) is a deficit of \$9,185. Interest income was \$39,905 above budget; pledged contributions were \$24,103 above budget; nonpledged contributions were \$45,574 below budget. Personnel expenses were approximately \$72,310 below budget.

Preliminary unaudited data through January 31, 2024: actual revenues \$80,799; budgeted \$66,359. Actual expenses \$39,551; budget \$49,590. Net (actual revenues less actual expenses) is a surplus of \$41,248. Overall contributions are \$4,680 below budget; interest/dividend income and endowment distributions were above budget. Personnel expenses were \$4,159 below budget.

Dottie Erb presented some questions from Discipleship. The first dealt with welcoming new people or former members; how can we do that better? Regarding how the attendance pads are used, the church office should be recording attendance. The pastor, clerk and Membership Committee may use that information to identify visitors and inactive members to contact. Finally, committees were encouraged to clarify the scope of their work to help ensure we are not overlapping our efforts nor missing things that need to be accomplished. Some joint meetings might help with this.

Session approved a 25th Anniversary for the Chancel Organ Concert for Sunday, May 5, 2024. The events will include a dedication of the sanctuary piano (donated by the Jim Cole family) and the carillon (from the Orlene Makinson family trust), and an afternoon organ recital by Dan Fortune and Valerie Thorson.

Session also approved the continuation of a combined WYDACA dinner and community dinner on the odd numbered months, and a combined plant and tag sale on Saturday May 4 from 11:00 AM until 3:00

PM. The tag sale will benefit the Youth summer mission week activities. Proceeds from the plant sale and the sale of grilled hot dogs will be used for Celtic Garden plantings and maintenance costs.

The Annual Congregational Meeting was scheduled for Sunday, March 17, 2024 immediately following the morning worship service.

Average worship attendance for January was 62, with 57 average viewings on YouTube.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 26 at 7 pm.