



January 24, 2024 Session Meeting Highlights

The following are the highlights from the January Session meeting:

- All 12 pews removed from the Sanctuary will be used by someone: 5 by church members and 7 by members of the community (we had a waiting list).
- To avoid having to cancel a future Sunday service because of snow (as we recently had to do), work is underway to provide a modified worship by Zoom on Sundays when our building is closed.
- Work continues on restarting Extending the Table to provide home communion for our homebound members and friends with the current goal of a start in March 2024.
- On a preliminary basis, the 2023 budget will have a small surplus (as opposed to a projected \$52,000 deficit). The largest 2023 expense saving relative to budget was staffing costs which were about \$55,000 below budget due to the timing of filling open positions.
- Only members who previously created an account to use the Church Life App (which was connected to our past ACS database) are currently visible by other members who have created an account to use Realm Connect (which is connected to our current Realm database). The office has found that although the process to create an account on Realm Connect (and hence be included in the Realm Connect directory) can be a little challenging for some as they have been spending a lot of time individually walking members through this process. To enhance the usefulness of the Realm Connect directory, we need to have to all members contact information in the Realm Connect directory. Session approved in the near future setting up a process for members wishing not to have their contact information included in the Realm Connect directory to be able to “opt out” prior to some date certain. After this date, all member contact information will be included in the Realm Connect directory except for those members that have opted out.
- Session approved clarifying Pastor Taylor’s title to better reflect his current responsibilities from “Pastor for Youth & Faith Formation” to simply “Pastor for Faith Formation.”
- For a number of years, FPCA has allowed Lehigh County to use a portion of our facility (Rooms 118, 120, and 122) for one of their election poll locations. Recently, Lehigh County increased the amount per election that they pay to lease each election polling location to \$200/election and hence have asked all election polling location providers to sign an updated, standard election poll location lease agreement. Session approved signing this updated lease agreement.
- Annually, we are required to submit an annual statistical report to PC(USA). Session approved our report for 2023. At the end of 2023 we had 1077 members on our roll.
- Pastor Taylor applied for and FPCA received a grant to partially fund a one-year subscription to PORTRAITS by SocialSermons. This ministry will send a professional photographer once every 90 days to our church at a date we schedule with them. The professional photographer will do an in-person photo shoot that day to capture that day in the life of our church. These photos will then be professionally edited and given to us to use in any way we see fit such as on our website and in social media communications.