



September 27, 2023 Session Meeting Highlights

The following are the highlights from the September Session meeting:

- The Building and Grounds Strategic Taskforce has met twice to explore and identify possible viable options that might allow us to turn the building and grounds into an asset for FPCA's ministry rather than present a financial liability. They plan to eventually present 2-3 such options to Session – but they will not be keeping minutes or sharing information until those options appear “ripe” for sharing.
- Pastor Carter will lead a half-day Men's Retreat on Saturday, November 4.
- On October 25, we will start our Weekday Preschool Chapel services every Wednesday which will include Bible stories, a mini message, prayer, and music.
- Worshipping with Children cards have been developed. They will be placed in the pews to help enhance the worship experience for all of us, while giving helpful considerations to adults on how to help children worship.
- Currently there are approximately 75 children and youth registered for faith formation this year.
- Work is underway to increase visitation and contact with 'homebound' members that are open to it through a pastoral care ministry.
- At the end of August 2023, year-to-date General Fund Revenues were about \$71,000 below year-to-date budgeted general fund revenues (with pledges about \$42,000 below year-to-date budgeted pledges) and year-to-date expenditures were about \$98,000 below year-to-date budgeted expenditures. This results in about a \$23,000 year-to-date deficit compared to the year-to-date budget. Actual total revenues for August 2023 were about \$13,000 above total actual expenses.
- Session approved spending up to \$10,000 for the purchase and installation of the video equipment to repair, replace, and/or update the video equipment in Fellowship Hall. Also approved was up to an additional \$1,000 to procure a Mac mini to control the Fellowship Hall lighting when using the video equipment. The money comes from a special restricted account for “Alternative Worship.”
- Updated building use fees for use of spaces in our facility by outside groups were approved
- A new remote preschool door locking/unlocking system from the preschool office with a doorbell, microphone, speaker, and camera was approved. This addition will enhance the safety of our preschoolers and staff. It has also been recommended by the Allentown Police Department after an inspection of the Preschool portion of our building. Additionally, a camera will be installed to record those entering and exiting the building. The recordings would be accessible for approximately one week so that footage can be reviewed only if needed (such as if a preschool student had wandered out of the building).
- An updated job description for the Director of Contemporary Music position was approved for use by the hiring team for this currently vacant position was approved.
- The Building and Grounds Team is working on plans to remove up to some 15 dead trees as well as some dead and overhanging branches on our campus as these can present some safety concerns.