



## August 2, 2023 Session Meeting Highlights

The following are the highlights from the July Session meeting which was delayed until August 2, 2023:

- After hearing reports from the Worship Team, from conversations with members of the musical band and from participants in the 8:45 service, Session voted to return the 8:45 service to Fellowship Hall beginning October 8. The service will take place in Fellowship Hall with the understanding that Fellowship Hall will remain available for fellowship events, the Preschool, and sheltering Family Promise guests as needed. We will also continue to have one united service periodically in the sanctuary (for example: September 10 this year, World Communion Sunday, Annual meeting Sunday, Pentecost, and other Sundays as scheduled).
- A review of the building use fees and the conditions for building use by outside groups is in progress. Because of several pending requests, Session approved renting the Sanctuary for \$600/event (\$700 on Saturday) plus a \$25/hr service fee and the Chapel for \$250/event plus a \$25/hr service fee.
- A Building and Grounds Strategic Taskforce is being formed. This taskforce will study how we might use our present facilities and grounds to “generate additional income, facilitate the church’s mission, and ensure the viability for future generations. (Lombard Final Report).
- This year we will have a year-long stewardship theme for the church from Isaiah 43:19: “I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth...I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” A banner for outside display was approved in concept.
- The “Church Life” App (which contains member contact information and is used by a number of members) is being phased out so it is no longer available to be shared with new staff and congregational members. Session agreed to migrate to the replacement software by the same company called “Realm Connect.” When this migration takes place there will be some simple training on how to download, access, and use Realm Connect. The switch will actually save the church money on an annual basis.
- Session agreed that the Faith Formation team will report curriculum decisions to Session for informational purposes, but that the Session will designate authority for approving the curriculum to the Team in consultation with the pastoral staff.
- The Session approved the purchase of necessary switching hardware and surge protection for our telephone and wifi systems. Funds will come from the special Technology Fund.
- Beginning in the Fall, church office hours will be adjusted to 9-4, Monday through Thursday, and 9-12 Friday (now it is 9-5, Monday through Thursday).
- The first-floor tile floors have been stripped, cleaned and re-waxed as approved at a July 17, 2023 special Session meeting. They really shine now. The custodians are going to do their best to maintain this shine into the future. The Narthex door repair is waiting on the arrival of a piece of granite. It is hoped that the repair work can be completed by September, 2023.
- At the end of June 2023, year-to-date General Fund Revenues were about \$101,000 below year-to-date budgeted general fund revenues (with pledges about \$83,000 below year-to-date budgeted pledges) and year-to-date expenditures were about \$89,000 below year-to-date budgeted expenditures. This results in about a \$10,000 year-to-date deficit compared to the year-to-date budget.