



## December 14, 2022 Session Meeting Highlights

The following are the highlights from the December 14, 2022 Session meeting:

- The interim lead pastor search team presented their recommended candidate as FPCA's interim lead pastor, the Rev. Dr. W. Carter Lester, Jr. The search team reported that they had reviewed 41 PIF's (14 were from females and 24 from males). Initially, they got down to a group of 15 candidates (some of which accepted other positions during their search process). Six candidates were interviewed. The search team felt that Pastor Carter was the candidate God was leading them to call to serve as interim lead pastor. Session approved an initial 1-year contract with Pastor Carter. Pastor Jan was a "transitional" pastor. She successfully completed all the hard work of transition. Pastor Carter is an "interim" pastor who will carry us forward as a placeholder for our next installed lead pastor as we travel the path to that pastor. Pastor Carter is not a "transitional" pastor.
- Elder Leads for the six Lombard Issue Teams (mission study, worship, communications, disagreements, membership, and FPCA history) should be reaching out to congregational members who volunteered to serve on one of these teams at the December 4, 2022 Town Hall Meeting.
- A census request has been sent either electronically or by letter to members who do not use email. We are asking each member to complete a census form. The census form can be found either on the FPCA website under NEWS and then on the dropdown "Census" or at worship services by the offering plates. The census will tell us more accurately the current size of our congregation. This is a key element needed for an accurate Mission Study. Completing the Mission Study is the next major step on our path to searching for our next installed lead pastor.
- The financials as of the end of November 2022 show that year-to-date General Fund revenues are about \$30,000 above year-to-date budgeted revenues (with pledges down about \$56,000 from year-to-date budgeted pledges). Year-to-date expenditures are about \$ 72,000 below year-to-date budgeted expenditures primarily due to unfilled staff positions. This results in a year-to-date surplus relative to year-to-date budget of about \$105,000. However, on an actual year basis expenditures currently exceed revenues by about \$26,000.
- The interim pastoral care pastor search team has completed the Ministry Information Form (MIF) for this position. Both Session and Presbytery have approved the MIF. This team can now begin searching for an interim replacement for Pastor Stephen.
- Session approved Bob Martin, Jon Dubbs, and Dave Bockstanz as FPCA's regular commissioners (who represent FPCA at Presbytery Assemblies) to Lehigh Presbytery for the year 2023 (and Chip Layfield and Lois Hensler as alternates).
- Session approved raising the compensation rate for our preschool teachers (the preschool is one of FPCA's ministries) and changing it so it will now be based on their years of service as a preschool teacher.
- The church office will be closed on July 3, 2023 to give our staff a 4-day holiday.
- Session agreed some new guidelines for building use by non-church groups and members as shown in Attachment A.

If you have any questions/concerns that you want to ask/convey to Session or if you are interested in participating in one of the six Lombard Issue Teams, please email them or your interest to [session@fpcallentown.org](mailto:session@fpcallentown.org).

## Attachment A Guidelines on Building Use by Non-Church Groups and Members

In accordance with our church's ministry of outreach to the local community and stewardship of our campus the following guidelines are applicable to decisions on requests by non-church groups and members for use of our campus for meetings, celebrations, performances, and etc. (subject to applicable building use fees):

Outside groups provided:

- The group's intent/beliefs are in accordance with FPCA and our mission
- The group is a non-profit organization or a for-profit organization that is not seeking to make money or recruit customers from their event on our campus
- All of our expectations/requirements for proof of insurance, abiding by our policies (no alcohol, smoking), etc. are honored
- The request does not extend our staff beyond their capacity
- The event does not cost the church any expense beyond lights and heating

Church members to use for celebrations such as baptism, birthday, anniversary parties provided:

- Our schedule and staff can accommodate the request.
- Outside groups and members having a celebration will be responsible for their own set-up and tear-down leaving the space the way they found it (or better). The group can request chairs, tables, etc. and they will be in the room for them to set-up.

The set-up/teardown policy for all groups – church and others – is:

- Each group to do their own set-up/teardown with requested furniture being placed in the room for them to use.
- For now, subject to current Custodian workload, Custodians will do set-ups/teardowns for church groups as long as they are not a major event or too elaborate.