



## December 15, 2021 Session Meeting Highlights

The following are the highlights from the December 15, 2021 Session meeting:

- Session discussed in general terms the 2022 budget challenges. Over this past year we have both lost and gained members. Today, we are a smaller church than we were pre-pandemic. As a smaller church we may have to make do with a smaller budget than we enjoyed in the past. Member pledges made up about 75% of the budgeted 2021 general fund revenues. Based on our member 2022 pledging generosity to date, we are faced with the real possibility of having to make some tough choices regarding what to include in our 2022 budget. To try and minimize any needed reductions, Session decided to conduct an early January second pledge appeal in hopes that FPCA's current ministry program, staffing, and facility needs can be fully met in 2022.
- Session approved the removal and disposal of the pizza oven and the ancient two stovetop ovens. The pizza oven will not be replaced; however, two new stovetop ovens will be purchased and installed. Once the new ovens are purchased and installed, the kitchen repairs should be complete and the kitchen material being stored in Fellowship Hall can be returned to the kitchen.
- Session approved Session meeting dates for 2022 as well as Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup> for the 2022 Annual Meeting following a single English language service at 10:00 a.m.
- Session approved the communion dates for 2022.
- Session approved Chip Layfield, Bob Martin, Pat Hoffman and Lois Henseler as our 2002 FPCA Commissioners for Lehigh Presbytery. Session also approved Jon Dubbs as an alternate FPCA Commissioner.
- Session approved use of the "Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living" curriculum (which we used for November and December 2021) for use with the congregation at every age level for CY 2022.
- Pastor Jan reported that discussions are underway with the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center about engaging them to help us work through congregational conflict issues.
- At the end of November year-to-date general fund revenue is running about \$60,000 below budget. Expenses are also running some \$95,000 below budget for now primarily due to reduced staff.
- The new property manager (replacing Roger Drayer), Don LaBombard, is now on-board. However, a third custodian is likely still needed. Finally, the Personnel Team continues to study various options to replace the business manager position vacated by Larry Deal when he retired earlier this year.
- Session briefly discussed what to do with the pews currently being stored in Fellowship Hall. If these pews are not returned to the Sanctuary, Session felt strongly that they should be donated (if at all possible). Session asked the Worship Task Force together with the Pastoral Staff to bring back a recommendation(s) on what to do with the pews. The pews could be returned to the Sanctuary, our Sanctuary seating experiment could continue a bit longer [another suitable storage space for the pews (other than Fellowship Hall) may be challenging to find], or additional pews could be removed and replaced with chairs from Fellowship Hall. This last option could provide additional flexibility to utilize our Sanctuary for a variety of functions so this prime part of our building is utilized more than several hours a week for worship services.