



September 28, 2022 Session Meeting Highlights

The following are the highlights from the September 28, 2022 Session meeting:

- There has been a family of five who have been soliciting help from the church and donations from cars driving by our church on Cedar Crest. While the church has provided them some assistance in the form of a gift card for food from Giant it is not clear whether they are really in the situation they claim they are in or trying to con people into making donations to them. They have not been seen around recently.
- Our Cub Scout Pack #12 was given permission to arrange for a federal agent to land a helicopter on our campus for the Scouts to learn about helicopters and the value of pursuing an education.
- Until a Bridge Pastor is hired, Pastor Stephen, Pastor Taylor, and guest preachers (mostly women to provide a female voice to the congregation) will rotate preaching.
- Going forward there is only going to be one eblast per week rather than two.
- Linda Neely is doing a great job as the new Preschool director.
- The financials as of the end of August 2022 showed that year-to-date General Fund revenues are about \$17,000 above year-to-date budgeted revenues (with while year-to-date expenditures are about \$46,000 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 \$63,000.
- The Spirit Card sales profits have been going to help fund the youth program (it is estimated that it has been generating \$1,000-2,000 per year). The youth program needs are being handled through the budget. The Finance Team was asked to consider taking Spirit Card sales as a new source of revenue for the church. It was suggested that sales need to be for something specific.
- An ad hoc group representing the Finance, Building and Grounds, and Mission Teams are reviewing our Building Use Policy including fees charged for the use of our facilities.
- The Interim pastor Ministry Information Form was approved by Presbytery's Committee on Ministry and has been posted. The interim pastor search team has begun receiving Personal Information Form's from prospective candidates.
- Diana Worley, our support staff person, is retiring. She is offering to stay until the end of January 2023 (or longer if needed to help train and orient her replacement).
- The curriculum used in our fall staff-led and member-led faith formation groups was approved
- Session approved restructuring the Mission Team to simplify how we provide leadership to our mission ministries and be more intentional in visioning and prioritizing an effective mission ministry that is responsive to the Gospel and the world in this time and place and can be supported by our current capacity.
- With Pastor Jan's departure as head of staff on August 31, 2022, the time between then and January 31, 2023 will again require Stephen and Taylor to fill the roles of three pastors. In recognition of the extra work, we are asking Stephen and Taylor to take on, Session approved an \$11,000 one-time gift to be divided equally between Taylor and Stephen. Routine expenses (e.g., employer's social security tax and 37% Board of Pension dues) will be paid for out of this amount.
- Approval was given for the Stewardship Team to host a church wide chili cookoff (called "Chilifest") on Friday, Oct. 21, 2022 from 6 – 8 PM in Fellowship Hall / Kitchen.
- To encourage younger families to attend worship services, two part-time nursery workers will be hired to operate the nursery (for ages 0-3) for approximately four hours every Sunday and for special

worship services. The nursery workers will obtain our Safe Sanctuaries clearance before they can start work.

- The Preschool Advisory Board will work in conjunction with the Building and Grounds Team to investigate possible ways to utilize the Presbytery office space once Presbytery vacates them at the end of this year, noting that one option would be to temporarily consolidate the Preschool office and supplies into that space.
- One of the three Interim Pastor Search Team members has a long -scheduled trip to Australia in Nov. Rather than delay the Team's work for a month, the Nominating team proposed and Session approved adding Jenn Riedy to the Interim Pastor Search Team.
- The Finance Team determined that there are numerous designated fund accounts that have either outlived their original purpose, have similar restrictions or have nominal balances. They recommended and Session approved closing and/or consolidating such funds.
- The Worship Task Force has reconvened and is working on recommendations for providing music at Sunday worship services following Tom Dressler's departure. They believe that we should stick with the current worship schedule (early service, faith formation hour, traditional service).
- The Faith Formation Team is working on updates to the Safe Sanctuaries requirements.
- Local Mission reminded Session that Par for the Cause had a net profit of \$28,178 which is being donated to the YMCA Warming Station in Allentown. In September some 48 clients and staff participated in FPCA's Day Break Picnic held at the church. Day Break clients look forward to this picnic as well as our program in conjunction with Boscov's to provide them with a pair of shoes. Ripple appreciated use of the tents on our front lawn for their basket raffle at our church. Finally, October 30, 2022 is the first week we will be hosting families as part of our Family Promise commitment.
- The Racial Justice Team Seeking Beloved Community is considering a broader name for this team in light of the Mission Team reorganization approved at this meeting.