



## May 24, 2023 Session Meeting Highlights

The following are the highlights from the May 24, 2023 Session meeting:

- Session heard the faith statements and examined the following confirmands, all passed successfully. They will be received into FPCA membership during the 10:00 AM worship service on Sunday, June 4, 2023.

Connor Daniels  
Kate Gilchrist  
Caroline Grum  
Colin Hamilton

Taylor Henninger  
Aneri McGalla  
Chris Park  
Nathan Park

Dylan Prosser  
Lexie Simmons  
Brandon Stout  
Ben Taylor

Braxton Lakatosh will be examined prior to June 4<sup>th</sup> so he can also be confirmed.

- Andy Baranek, chair of the Interim Pastoral Care Pastor search team gave Session a brief introduction for Rev. Kathryn Foster who will be the Interim Pastoral Care Pastor and Rev. Kathryn Foster then shared her background with Session.
- The scout troops FPCA is the chartering organization for are active and growing. They are exploring the feasibility of erecting an equipment storage shed on our property.
- In the near future we transition back to the pre-Covid use of Greeters, including taking up the offering.
- An ad hoc group consisting of members of the Finance and Personnel teams, and Tara and Carter will be meeting to review and update the building use fees, including any extra custodial fees for use of the sanctuary and facilities by outside groups.
- The Siegele Scholarship Committee met to review applications and interview candidates. A total of \$27,500 was distributed at varied amounts to eleven students.
- Lemonade in the Shade will return this summer in the Narthex and on the front lawn.
- At the end of April 2023, year-to-date General Fund Revenues were about \$15,000 below year-to-date budgeted general fund revenues (with pledges about \$25,000 year-to-date budgeted pledges) and year-to-date expenditures were about \$87,000 below year-to-date budgeted expenditures (currently comprised mostly of unfilled staff positions for a portion of the year, minimal snow removal costs, delayed building repairs, and delayed mission spending). This results in about a \$68,000 year-to-date surplus compared to the year-to-date budget.
- The Lombard process team working on Mission/Identity/Theology has adopted a new name: Mission Statement/Study Team. The members of this team are:

Matt Clever  
Lois Henseler  
Rich Laliberte

Mike Loomis  
Sean Metzgar  
Debbie Palmer, Elder

Janine Santoro  
Rebecca Taylor  
Lynda Wiseman

Session referred to this team two requests that came up in May: (1) a request for a statement of affirmation regarding women in leadership as well as affirms LGBTQ+ individuals and celebrate their full participation in the life and leadership of the church, and (2) a proposal communicating that First Presbyterian Church is a safe place for LGBTQ and other vulnerable peoples by Session adopting a welcoming statement to be placed on a rotating banner outside the church and on the various screens in the church, including the sanctuary.

- Staff will be given the week off between closing of the church office between Christmas and New Years (December 26-29, 2023) except for the processing of any payments and any year end security transfers by the church accountant during this time period. The pastors will still be available.
- The 2022 FPCA Census Final Report (Attachment A) was reviewed with Session.

## Attachment A 2022 FPCA Census Final Report

Total = 1224 members of which 51% completed a census form.

Active Member	Inactive Member	Remove from Membership	No Response	Status Not Indicated	<b><u>Active Member</u></b> (68%)
830	107	38	238	11	

- Completed census form. 490 members completed a census form and indicated that they wanted to be an active member.
- Deemed. 340 members did not complete a census form, but were deemed active members based on one or more of the following:
  - They made a 2023 pledge
  - They are 25 years old or younger
  - Pastors (including Stephen Emick) reviewed the list and indicated that they should be included as active members.
  - They were mentioned on one census form completed for the entire family.

### **Inactive Member** (9%)

- Completed census form. 86 members completed a census form and indicated that they wanted to be an inactive member. Many do not currently live locally.
- Deemed. 21 members were indicated as inactive by the pastors.

### **Remove from Membership** (3%)

- 38 members indicated on a census form or by another means that they no longer wished to be a member of FPCA. They are either attending another church or not participating at all.

### **No Response** (19%)

- These 238 members were contacted three different times and asked to complete a census form. 1) Email or letter to those who do not use email. 2) Letter sent to all who did not reply to #1 3) Follow-up phone call to all who did not respond to #1 and #2. In some cases we did not have sufficient contact information to call and/ or send a letter. Only 5% of these are older (over 80) and 68% are under 65, so they should be capable of responding if they wished to.

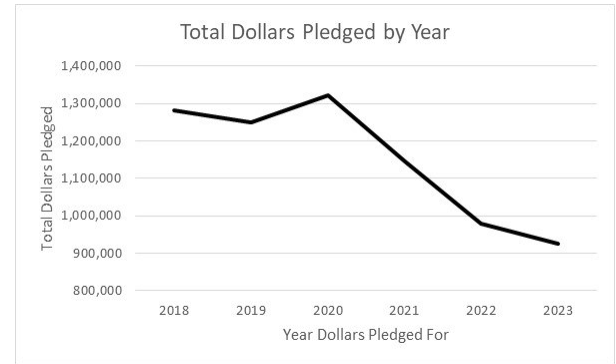
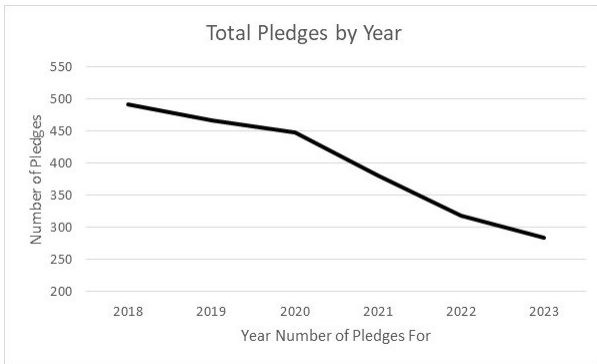
### **Status Not Indicated** (1%)

- Some members completed a census form but did not indicate a membership status. Follow up phone calls were made to them, but 11 did not reply.

## Financial Implications

### Pledging

- 31% of our 1224 members made a 2023 pledge
- Number of pledges by age group:
  - 65 and below (35%)
  - 66-79 (42%)
  - 80+ (23%)



### Per Capita

- The per capita rate for Lehigh Presbytery is approximately \$48/member in 2023. 28% of our members either indicated they were “Inactive” or simply didn’t respond. Payments for these members will cost the church additional money.
  - Inactive Members = 107 Per capita assessment = \$5,1036
  - Members who did not respond = 238 Per capital assessment = \$11,424

### Staffing

Staffing based on a membership of 1224 instead of for 830 active members could result in excess staff costs.

### Other Observations

At the end of April, FPCA had 1224 members. Age distribution is

- 25 or younger (11%) Many/most members in this group likely do not live locally.
- 26-65 (43%)
- 66-79 (23%)
- 80+ (19%)

Although there are 830 “active” members in this census, in reality there are probably only about 400-500 members between the ages of 26 and 79 who are able and interested in actively volunteering and participating in the work of our church.

By Roger Yott