



November 15, 2023 Session Meeting Highlights

The following are the highlights from the November Session meeting:

- Session renewed the contract with Dr. Reverend Carter Lester as our Interim Lead Pastor, effective January 9, 2024 for one year to January 8, 2025. Financial terms of the contract will be worked out during the 2024 budget process.
- FPCA has provided non-clergy staff with a voluntary Retirement Savings Plan they can make contributions to. FPCA has been making an annual discretionary 4% contribution to the retirement savings accounts of eligible employees based on their annual compensation contribution. Instead of a discretionary contribution, Session approved committing to making this 4% contribution each year.
- In recognition of our hard working staff as we continue in this interim period, Session agreed to fund an all staff Christmas party. Pastor Taylor has agreed to plan and organize this party.
- The Session approved a commission of three elders to meet with, and receive into membership, two more new members.
- The Session approved disposing of the pews previously removed from the sanctuary, with the Building and Grounds team determining if any of the pews are needed to replace pews currently in the sanctuary in need of repair. Following that review, any remaining pews will be offered first to church members at no charge, and then to the general public (at a cost to reimburse the church for any transportation costs). Church members who would like to have a pew need to contact the pastors or church office. The pews will be available in early January.

Background: In June, 2021 Session approved the temporary removal of the first six rows of pews in the Sanctuary for the summer worship program to in part allow us to experiment with a variety of worship styles. These pews were stored in Fellowship Hall. In February, 2022 the Worship Task Force proposed and Session approved the permanent removal of these pews. Then, in March, 2022, the Worship Task Force decided it needed a break. They recommended and Session approved pausing doing anything with the pews and keeping them stored. Later, once the kitchen renovation was completed, to regain the use of Fellowship Hall, the pews needed to be relocated. A church member offered to store them in their warehouse.

The warehouse now needs the space where they are storing our pews and has asked us to remove them. The space without pews in the front of the sanctuary is needed for joint services when the band plays along with organ and choir, as well as for more intimate, special services in the Sanctuary, such as the Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and Quiet Christmas.

- The dead trees on our property have been removed and their stumps cut level with the ground. Next year the Building and Grounds Team will investigate the cost of grinding the stumps, filling the ground stump area with topsoil, and grading the topsoil so that lawn could be planted where the trees were.
- The Nominating Team is busy coming up with nominations for members of a PNC to begin searching for our new, installed Lead Pastor. A special congregational meeting will be called so the congregation can consider approving the nominated PNC members.

- If you have not made a 2024 pledge, this would be a great time to do it. Pledges are a key element in Session's formulation of FPCA's 2024 operating budget.
- Work is in progress to install an exterior door security system for the Preschool entry door by the old Presbytery office.
- At the end of October 2023, year to date total revenues are about \$58,000 above year-to-date total expenses.