



October 26, 2022 Session Meeting Highlights

The following are the highlights from the October 26, 2022 Session meeting:

- Jay Wittmeyer and Devon Miller from the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center discussed their preliminary recommendations for issues FPCA should address based on proposals developed by participants in the September 17th problem solving session. Their final report should be submitted the week of October 31, 2022. It will be distributed to the congregation (as well as the interim report that Session received on October 24, 2022 which contained the member input from both the September 10th and 17th problem solving sessions). Their goal in this discussion was to briefly discuss the underlying theme they heard [how to rekindle a sense belonging among FPCA's membership (e.g., what do we have in common that holds us together)].so we can feel connected. They provided their thoughts on how they might prioritize the proposals that came out of the problem-solving process and how we might engage with them.

Lombard recommend first tackling mission and identity, worship (Contemporary and Traditional), and building/worship. However, they also pointed out that it will be up to Session to decide what issues to tackle and in what order. A Town Hall meeting is also being considered to share more information on how Session sees us proceeding from here as well as to answer any congregational questions.

- New office hours are Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and closed for lunch from 1:00-1:30pm. Friday the office closed but staff is present and working
- The Communication Committee has been dissolved. With a major shift in our communications during the pandemic, the original team's work is no longer the same work we need today.
- The financials as of the end of September 2022 showed that year-to-date General Fund revenues are about \$14,000 above year-to-date budgeted revenues (with while year-to-date expenditures are about \$ 54,000 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 \$68,000.
- The interim bridge pastor search team is continuing to meet and is lining up more interviews with prospective candidates.
- Session approved:
 - Purchase of 4 new laptops – 2 for Faith Formation staff and 2 for general Faith Formation use.
 - An update to our Safe Sanctuaries Policy that added an additional way to complete required Mandated Reporter training.
 - Adding part-time staff positions for Contemporary Worship Music Director, Traditional Worship Music Director, and a Worship Tech Director (to handle audio and video for our worship services)

- A three-person search team for an interim pastoral care pastor who would serve until the new, permanent lead pastor is on-board and can determine the level of pastoral staff we need. Two of the members are Andy Baranek and Pat Lisetski. The third member has not yet been identified.
- Fellowship reported that an intergenerational Christmas get together is planned for December 16, 2022 from 6:30 to 9:00 pm.
- Mission reported that the Family Promise families arrive on October 30th for a week. Some volunteers are still needed. Par for the Cause raised over \$30,000 for the Warming Station. Work is underway on the approved mission team changes.
- Stewardship reported that the winning chili at the Chili and Soup Cook Out was from the refugee family FPCA is sponsoring – the Guerra family.

If you have any questions or concerns that you want to ask/convey to Session, please email them to session@fpcallentown.org.