

Stated Session Meeting Minutes February 27, 2022

The Session met on Sunday, February 27, 2022 by Zoom and in person in the session room. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

Elders Present: Terry Appenzeller, Andi Banks, Jim Campbell, Jay Crane, Caroline Culpepper, Claude Davis, Steve Harlan, Mandy Hildebrand, Amanda Hilton, Stuart Mull, Bob Smith, Knox Tate, Shirley Thomason, Phil Trick, and Ellie Wilson. Elder Ken Bates, Clerk of Session, was also present.

Pastors: Whit Malone and Heather Davis were both present.

Opening Devotion and Prayer: Shirley Thomason, "Belief in Constant Values".

Matters for Discussion and Action:

- Receive new members: Alan and Judy Harrell by transfer of letter from South Norfolk Congregational Christian Church in Chesapeake, Va. and Judy Evans by transfer of letter from New Jerusalem Lutheran Church. Jim Campbell made a motion, seconded by Bob Smith to receive these new members. The motion passed unanimously.
- The session continued its discussion of COVID precautions in light of the latest recommendations by the CDC. The Regathering Task Force met on February 21 and recommends that session adopt a "mask recommended" policy for all indoor, congregate activities. This policy applies to all areas of the church except the preschool hall which falls under different regulations. Dr. Greg Brooks, a member of the Regathering Task Force, joined the meeting to explain the reasoning and answer questions. Phil Trick made a motion to adopt a mask recommended policy, except in the preschool hall. The motion was seconded by Jim Campbell and passed by a vote of 11-2.
- The session set an "up-to" budget \$25,000 for the work of the Pastoral Nominating Committee. The funds will come from the unrestricted endowment income. This was approved by common consent.
- The session heard a recommendation of the Columbarium Committee to waive the policy of "Eligibility" for a church member who requested permission for the burial of her brother's ashes in the memorial garden. The Columbarium Policy allows for exceptions on a case-by-case basis. The session approved the waiving of the policy in this case.
- Approve the baptism of Kennedy Taylor for March 6, 2022. The baptism was approved by common consent.
- Update on Whit's retirement date and interim pastoral leadership if needed. June 5, 2022 will be Whit's last day in the pulpit. The rest of June will be used as study leave and vacation. The Personnel Committee is working on interim pastoral leadership.

Consent Agenda

Items requiring Session Approval:

- Stated Session Minutes from January 23, 2022 were approved by common consent.

Clerk's Report

Births: Samuel Robert Murray to Gray and Sally Murray on February 21, 2022.

Baptisms Administered: Arlie Sutton Finger on February 6, 2022.

Deaths: Sally Blackwelder on February 21 and former member Marcia Johnson on February 25.

Administration of Communion: February 6, 2022.

Correspondence: None.

Reports by Committee Liasons:

- Claude Davis reported that the membership committee is organizing another call-in to every church member.
- Ellie Wilson reported that instead of Easter lilies, cleanup buckets would be used to collect money for Church World Services. She also reported that Family Care Center would have an online auction. FPC members are donating gift cards to be used in one of the baskets to be auctioned. The virtual silent auction runs from 3/29/22 until 4/2/22.

Staff Reports: None.

Next Meeting: Sunday, March 27.

Devotion March: Claude Davis

Closing Prayer: Whit Malone

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Dr. J. Whit Malone, Moderator

Dr. P. Ken Bates, Clerk of Session