

Minutes
Bayside Presbyterian Church Stated Session Meeting
21 February 2017 7:00 PM Room 508

The Session of Bayside Presbyterian Church met in a Stated Meeting at 7:00 pm in Room 508. Members present, constituting a quorum, were Moderator Rev. Dr. David Rollins and Elders Gary Crossman, Sperry Davis, Bonita Gilchrist, Nancy Guy, Clancy Holland, John Jeffcoat, Betsy Kennedy, Gregor McLeod, Walter Martin, Doug Mitchell, Beth Montoya, Beth Parker, Sandy Ronan, Martha Rudell, Emily Rudiger, Debbie Sparks, Pam Spillman, Thomas Weeks, George Wong, and Hugh Vaughan.

Elder Russ Brown was not in attendance.

Staff Member Present: Chi-Yi Chen, Director of Music Ministries; Kim Coyle, Director of Christian Education

Visitors to the meeting included Treasurer Luanne Wong

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator who asked Session Members to share their joys and concerns, and opened the meeting with prayer.

The devotion was provided by Gary Crossman

The Sacrament of Communion was offered to all in attendance.

SESSIONAL RECORDS APPROVAL

The minutes from last month's stated Session meeting, Minutes from the 22 January Congregational Meeting, Minutes from the 5 February Congregational meeting, Minutes from the 5 February Meeting of the Corporation, and the agenda for tonight's Session meeting were provided in the read ahead package for all Session members.

Motion: It was moved by Clerk Doug Mitchell that the minutes from the last stated Session meeting, Minutes from the 22 January Congregational Meeting, Minutes from the 5 February Congregational meeting, Minutes from the 5 February Meeting of the Corporation, and the agenda, as amended, for tonight's Session meeting be approved. The motion passed.

STATISTICS REVIEW

1. Attendance statistics for the Month of December were provided for review and amendment
2. Reception of New Members: None.
3. Baptisms: Brent Rechkemmer (infant).
4. Church Weddings: None.
5. Member Transfers: None.
6. Deaths: Peggy Fisher, Tom Potter, William Peters (non-member).
7. Membership Requests: None.
8. Baptism Requests: None.
9. Church Wedding Requests: None.

FINANCIAL REPORT

1. The Balance Sheet & Treasurer's Report were made available to the Session on the website for review prior to tonight's meeting. Treasurer Luanne Wong reviewed the documents and facilitated discussion with the Session.

Luanne noted we are a few thousand in the "red" for January, however February income has almost doubled based on historical giving.

There was an audit conducted by the CPA on 8 February to close the books on 2016. The APNC search fund originally held \$8356 and we have spent approximately \$5100 so far in the search process and in helping Rev. Emma with her move. Costs for mileage and food are pending. Current balance in the APNC fund is about \$3250.

The question was asked if we were able to track the amount received from online giving. Luanne noted that we can and that online contributions go straight to the General Fund. We will be setting up the website to be able to accept specific giving. Admin costs for online giving are \$19/month and \$0.25/transaction for credit card fees.

Luanne noted that in previous years she has offered a brief training session/explanation of the Budget process. She will provide that educational opportunity at the next meeting of Session.

Motion: It was moved by Walter Martin that the Balance Sheet and Treasurer's Report be accepted with thanks. The motion passed.

2. Lily Grant. There were some Session members who were not aware of the non-receipt of the Lily Grant. Dr. Rollins noted that it was not received and that at the time we found out about it last fall, it was noted to Stewardship ministry as well as during the budget workshop, which everyone might not have attended.

COMMUNICATIONS: (Members, PCUSA, PEVA, Other):

1. None.

PEVA / CHURCH ISSUES

Report on the 28 January PEVA Meeting. Amanda Long and Cheri James attended. One of the toughest decisions of PEVA in a long time was the decision to close Makemie Woods and dispense of the property. The 3-year plan didn't work out. This is a nation-wide issue for all camps that do not have endowments. PEVA will partner with other Presbyteries in the area for camp attendees.

PASTOR TRAINING

David distributed the Session retreat notes to everyone along with an article addressing the Drop-out rate of Millennials from the church. He provided some highlights of the article and commended it to Session for individual reading. He encouraged everyone to read and bring back discussion items to the next meeting of Session.

CONTINUING ISSUES

1. Communications & information flow to the Congregation . No comments this evening.
2. Extending communion to the home bound – Tom Weeks provided an update that the number of Elders volunteering to serve were sufficient at this point to cover the demand.
3. Church policy and procedures review updates – the current status of policies was attached to the agenda - it was noted that most all church documents are current. There was some discussion on the content of the wedding policy but no action is pending for any changes.
4. Church renovations update – Sperry Davis noted that there are no projects currently in progress. The carpet in the pre-school hallway will be replaced as it is unravelling in some areas. Replacement will be at no cost.

NEW ISSUES

1. Interim Head of Staff Discussion and Motion. An attachment to the agenda outlined the Rationale, options, and proposed compensation for an Interim acting head of staff for the church during David's sabbatical this summer. There was discussion regarding the information provided with the decision being to defer addressing a motion until the next meeting of Session in March. Stewardship, Admin Support and the Treasurer will discuss and bring additional information to the March meeting
2. Quarterly Church Luncheons. An enclosure to the agenda provided the responsible Ministries for the March, June and October pot-luck luncheons. The December hosts were agreed to be Congregational Care and Property.
3. Ministry Team Moments. Admin Support provided a schedule for Ministries to contribute to a publishing in the Binnacle each month, with submissions to be provided to the church secretary by the 15th of each month prior to publishing. Ministries were asked to exchange months assigned if needed. Assigned months are: March/Admin Support, April/Worship, May/Property, August/Global Missions, September/Christian Ed, October/Stewardship, November/Community Service, and December/Evangelism.
4. Summer Worship Schedule. Worship Ministry provided a read-ahead in the agenda for all to consider regarding the summer schedule of worship. This issue had been discussed at the session retreat and received additional discussion at the Session meeting. Options discussed in the Ministry and at the Session meeting included the offering of two services (one traditional, one contemporary) and two Sunday school periods as coordinated by the individual classes, or the offering of one combined service throughout the summer. As part of the read ahead package, a motion was made by the Worship Ministry recommending the option of offering two services during the summer.

Motion: The Worship Ministry, because of traditionally declining attendance during the summer months, moves that the summer worship schedule be modified to offering 2 services beginning on June 11 and continuing through August 27, with the Traditional Service being held at 9:00 am and the Contemporary Service being held at 10:00am, that there be no combined Services during the Summer, that Communion schedules be maintained as currently approved by Session for both services, and that Sunday school classes be adjusted on a class by class basis. The motion failed

Additional conversation amongst the Session resulted in the following motion:

Motion: It was moved by Clancy Holland that the summer worship schedule be modified to offering a single Combined Service every Sunday morning in the Sanctuary at 9:00 am beginning on June 11 through August 27, with Sunday school being held following the service at 10:15 am and that Communion schedule be maintained on the first Sunday of the month. The motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS

Director of Educational Ministries – Kim provided the following report:

Since we have last met:

I was asked to join a committee on Racial Reconciliation at PEVA. We will meet every other month beginning in March.

I attended a continuing education opportunity entitled Theology, Racism, and Christian Practice: How Shall We Respond? The first presentation was The Origin of Race by Dr. Willie James Jennings. He challenged everyone to renounce our “whiteness,” and to act with the humility of a learner. The second day was a panel discussion with Dr. Jennings, Rev. Dr. Paul Roberts, President of J.C. Smith Theological Seminary, and Rev. Denise Anderson, Co-moderator of the 222nd General Assembly of PC (USA).

I’ve continued to work on liturgy for worship collaborating with Chi Yi through the fifth Sunday in Lent, anticipating working with Emma and Chi Yi on Palm Sunday.

I’ll be distributing ashes at Starbucks on Haygood Road on Ash Wednesday from 9am until noon for those who aren’t able to go to a service on Ash Wednesday. I am doing this because we need to take the message of love and grace out into the world. We have to go out into the public spaces, and find ways to communicate God’s love. I’m not saying that a quick stop for ashes at a coffee shop is an appropriate or meaningful substitution for a communal Ash Wednesday service in the evening, but I will say that those who stopped by for ashes last year were happy to know that there was a local church that understands how crazy and insane and busy their lives are and wanted to take time to step outside the church walls finding new and creative ways to communicate deep spiritual truths to people in the midst of their busy lives.

C.E. with the APNC is hosting Emma’s welcome potluck on March 5. Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert—we will provide a cake—to help welcome our new Associate Pastor!

I’ll be attending Mission at Massenetta June 25 – 29 for middle schoolers and the Montreat Youth Conference July 9 – 15 for our high school youth.

I’m working with Stewardship, Tom Weeks specifically, to develop a form so that our VBS parents can register and pay online.

During Lent David is teaching an Adam Hamilton book, Half Truths, on Wednesday nights beginning March 8 through April 5. Amanda Long will teach the same book on Sunday mornings beginning March 5 through April 9.

Following Lent C.E. has decided to offer a class on Sunday mornings, and possibly Wednesday nights, based on the book, The Search for Truth about Islam. Following the study we’d like to have an imam visit, and then invite the Turkish Muslims back to Bayside to break the Ramadan fast.

Lastly, I challenge each of you to take time to honor the season of Lent. Many years I tried to pray the hours, and I never made it! This year I’m using a meditation on Matthew 25, Meeting Jesus on the Margins. Take on a new devotion or study, or if it’s your preference, give something up. Whatever you do, let it draw you closer to Jesus as you journey together toward the cross and Easter morning.

Director of Music Ministries – Chi-yi provided the following report:

- Besides introducing new hymns from Glory to God, I plan to have boxes to let people name their favorite hymns. It’s so important to let the Music Director understand this church’s faith journey through hymns.
- Preparing JAM children to lead part of Ash Wednesday through singing and liturgical movement.
- I plan to invite children to sing on Sunday, March 19 and invite the preschoolers and parents to worship while the preschoolers along with the children’s choir will sing on Sunday, May 7th. This will require the cooperation of a few committees- Evangelism, Congregational Care and Worship.

- We are working on blending the contemporary service music on the first Sunday service. And this season the praise team is encouraged to have one song selected from Glory to God.
- Hand bell choir will ring March 5 and April 30.
- Still reorganizing the music rooms. This is still under process but much improved, thank you Pam Spillman and Eugene for your help!
- * Paula Garrison is organizing the choral library and is helping to file music. Pam Spillman is continuing to help reorganize the three music rooms.

Pastor / Head of Staff – David noted that he had talked long enough during this meeting regarding the issues of the Interim Head of Staff and the Summer Worship Schedule. He deferred his report due to time.

SUPPLEMENTAL MINISTRY REPORTS

Property – Sperry Davis noted that the Safety and Crime Prevention Officer from the VBPD had come last summer and did a security inspection of the church. He would like to present a formal report to the staff and leadership of the church on March 9th, tentatively at 10:00. Sperry desires participation by all of Session if possible.

Clancy Holland noted that the Ministry has discussed the installation of projection screens in the front of the Sanctuary. David needs to be part of the continuing discussions. Worship Ministry will also discuss.

Betsy Kennedy will pass leadership of the Admin Support Ministry to Gregor McLeod during her couple of month of treatment.

Pam Spillman reminded everyone about the Easter basket drive that will be conducted 3 March – 9 April.

George Wong provided an update on the live streaming discussions. He canvassed local churches for audio/video presentations and provided information on about 15 churches. We are one of only two churches who do not broadcast either audio or video. George and the Christian Education Ministry will continue to work.

CLOSING WITH PRAYER

With no further business, the meeting was closed at 8:40 pm.

These minutes approved by the Session on March 21st, 2017

WDM / Doug Mitchell

Clerk of Session