

Minutes
Bayside Presbyterian Church Stated Session Meeting
17 October 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, Clancy Holland, Betsy Kennedy, Walter Martin, Gregor McLeod, Doug Mitchell, Beth Parker, Martha Rudell, Emily Rudiger, Mark Schreiber, Pam Spillman, Thomas Weeks, Hugh Vaughan, and George Wong.

Elders Russ Brown, Bonita Gilchrist, Nancy Guy, John Jeffcoat, Beth Montoya, and Sandy Ronan were not in attendance.

Staff Member Present: Associate Pastor Rev. Emma Ouellette, Associate Pastor; Chi-Yi Chen Wolbrink, Director of Music Ministries, is attending a National Music Workshop in Dallas, TX.

Visitors to the meeting included Treasurer Luanne Wong and Assistant Clerk Amanda Long.

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 Tom Weeks.

There were no requests for membership, baptism, or weddings. It was noted by Dr. Rollins that the new members class led by Mary Holland will have some new members joining soon.

The Sacrament of Communion was offered to all in attendance.

SESSIONAL RECORDS APPROVAL

The minutes last month's stated Session meeting 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 and the agenda, as amended, for tonight's Session meeting be approved. The motion passed.

STATISTICS REVIEW

1. Attendance statistics for the Months of September were provided for review and amendment
2. Reception of New Members: None.
3. Baptisms: Benjamin Crawford, infant son of Abbey and Earl Crawford, was baptized on 01 October
4. Church Weddings: None.
5. Member Transfers: None.
6. Deaths: 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 that the General Fund grew in September from \$158K to 183 which was a good jump and noted that there will be 5 Sundays in October and December.

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

2. The Stewardship Committee noted that they had discussed the distribution of the monies provided by the estate of Louise Robinson in order to try to appropriate them to areas where Louise was most active. The recommendation of the ministry was accompanied by discussion of refraining from establishing additional special funds and that it may be possible to rename an existing fund if there is a desire to perpetuate Louise's name by associating her with a fund. The renaming of the Food Pantry Fund to the Louise Robinson Food Pantry fund was discussed as an example/possibility. Stewardship will have additional conversation.

Motion: It was moved by the Stewardship Ministry that the funds from the estate of Louise Robinson be distributed with \$6,000 to the Food Pantry Fund, \$6,000 to the Minister's Special Benevolence Fund, \$6,000 to the William & Rhonda Bertholf Education Fund, and \$6,500 to a new fund to be used by Session for Special Benevolences. The motion passed.

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

1. The Bayside Preschool Budget for 2018 was provided for information.
2. A letter from the head usher, Terri Dannemann, was provided as an enclosure to the agenda, announcing her resignation from the job after 10 years of service and the plan/request for her replacement. David will have additional conversation with Terri and Herb Gordon regarding the continuity of usher services.

PEVA / CHURCH ISSUES:

1. Comments from those who attended the retreat at First Presbyterian of Norfolk on 30 Sept for the presentation on "Why Won't They Come" were received from Sperry Davis and Rev. Oullette. Notable takeaways were that there has been a nationwide decline in church membership / attendance since the end of WWII. Presbyterians currently make up only 2% of the Christian population, which is unique for a country that was founded mostly by Presbyterians. It was noted that "America is no longer a Christian nation" by percentage, so Christians need to become missionaries in our own country. There was a TED talk what addressed this topic that may be attempted to be brought to the church. There is a need to promote the "why" of religion and offer the church as the answer, similar to some public media advertising by apple computers.
2. Election of Commissioners for the 24 October PEVA Meeting. Volunteers were accepted.

Motion: It was moved by Walter Martin that Gary Crossman and Tom Weeks be approved as commissioners for the 24 October PEVA meeting at 2nd Presbyterian Church in Norfolk. The motion passed.

PASTOR TRAINING

David addressed the "assigned reading" of *Sailboat Church* for the session and read some excerpts from the 7th chapter: **Quotes and Questions**

Quotes:

Over the course of the summer one of the books I read (and the session was asked to read as well) *Sailboat Church*, providing some helpful insight for understanding the current state of churches. The book also offered helpful and hope filled ways to help us live into our 2020 vision and beyond. In this newsletter article you will find a few quotes from the book as well as some questions the session is currently pondering. I would like you to read the quotes (better yet read the whole book) and reflect on the questions as well. My hope and prayer is that this resource will help us to hear more clearly where God is calling us to go and help us raise our sails so that they will be filled with the wind of the spirit.

"It is much easier to build a Sailboat church from scratch than it is to convert a row boat church into a Sailboat. Some of the most exciting new congregations around are those that intentionally planned from the beginning to sail, to be God-powered and Spirit-led. This kind of church naturally attracts people who want to sail. As the congregation grows, its members learn together better and better how to put up the sails and move with the wind. Sailing becomes the culture of the congregation.

These congregations are fairly rare. Many churches have been operating largely in the rowboat mode for decades. The mast is still there, but the sails are seldom raised. With oar locks bolted into place, the members have calluses from rowing." Chapter 7 pg. 50

"Let's observe, for example, the governing board of Corinth Church as it meets in December to work on the next year's budget. First, the treasurer makes the financial report and gives the board a figure for expected income for the coming year. She projects that giving will be down because some members have died and others are moving out of town. Second the board spends the next three hours trying to figure how to keep all the current programs going and also pay the bills for staff and utilities on less income than last year. The tone of the meeting becomes bleak as the evening drags on. Tempers are strained as frustrated leaders compete for their committee's share of the shrinking dollar pool. Finally, many leave the meeting depressed and wondering why they ever thought serving on the board of their church was a good idea.

These people are engaging in what might be called money-in-the-bank thinking. This is the way rowboat churches think about resources for ministry. Money-in-the-bank thinking bases the design for the future life and mission of the church almost entirely on the present reality. The determining factor in planning is what can be reasonably expected next year based on this year." Chapter 7 pgs. 57-58.

Questions:

1. Are we ready to drop the oars and set sail?
2. What needs to happen for Bayside to raise the sails and catch the wind of the Spirit?
3. Are we willing to risk failure to serve God?
4. Are we ready and willing to craft budgets from now until 2020 that are based on trusting God's provision and our faith and hope in God's future?
5. If so, what does that look like?
6. How will we look at our collective resources in the coming years?

CONTINUING ISSUES

1. Church policy and procedures review updates. The clerk noted that enclosure 2 to the agenda provided the most current status of updates and that appropriate Ministries were all working towards currency.
2. Sanctuary Updates – Task Force has not met in last 3 weeks but members are working on estimates for various possible modifications to the sanctuary space as well as for organ replacement. When ready they will bring to session and the congregation for further discussion.
3. Director of Christian Education Replacement. Betsy Kennedy noted that after approval of the committee, that they are scheduled to begin meeting on the 23rd of October.

Motion: The Admin Support Ministry moves that Betsy Kennedy, Beth Montoya, Aaron Long, Mac Rollins, Ron Garrison, Ashley McLeod, and Bill Warden be approved as the Search Committee for the Director of Christian Education. The motion passed.

4. Wedding Policy. It was noted that based on the experiences of a non-member wedding September that an update to policy is required and is in the works. David had received an email from the bride asking for a refund due to her bad experiences during her ceremony.
5. Summer Worship Survey – compilation was provided as an attachment to the agenda, noting that the majority of congregants enjoyed the combined service but recommended a later start (10:00) in future endeavors.
6. Session Retreat. Planning continues. Looking for an offsite venue if possible. There is a group looking for an affordable overnight house in Sandbridge in the winter month. If too expensive we may opt to meet in the church.

NEW ISSUES

1. Church Nursery Fundraising Request. Attachment to the agenda. Although there are property funds available to support the goal, it was felt that congregation involvement is appropriate. There has been some action taken to get rid of old toys, cushions, mattresses, etc, and that property will gladly support any shortfalls in the fundraising effort.

Motion: It was moved by George Wong that the request for the nursery fundraiser be approved. The motion passed.

2. Living Waters Fundraising Request. Global Missions is looking to purchase hygiene training and materials to teach the residents of a Peru orphanage how to operate and maintain their system during the group's next visit. Also to provide funds for 3 soccer nets to provide for the local children. The congregation will be solicited for donations on 5 November and/or 3 December combined services.

Motion: It was moved by the Global Missions Ministry that the Living Waters of the World fundraising request be approved. The motion passed.

3. Ecumenical Evening Service Communion Approval.

Motion: It was moved by Gary Crossman that the sacrament of communion be approved during worship in the Sanctuary on the evening of 19 November. The motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS

Director of Music Ministries – Chi-yi was not present at the meeting but provided the following written report:

1. We have a new Soprano section leader-Brenna Miller. Brenda graduated from the University of Richmond with a major in Voice Performance, and is now teaching at La Pettie Academy. We are still looking for the Bass section leader.
2. The Children's Choir has 12-15 attendance at JAM and about 5-8 on Sunday mornings. The Children's choir plans to participate in the monthly Combined service. Their next performance will be at the November 5th All Saints Sunday combined service.
3. Sarah Williams (the percussionist at Sail On) is teaching the children to use the drums on the last Wednesday of the month during JAM.
4. During the Christmas season the Handbell Choir will play from 5:20-6pm on December 9 during one of the Nativity Programs. They will also play during the Dec. 10th Sunday worship
5. The Sanctuary Choir will present a Christmas Cantata on Sunday, Dec. 17th at the 11 am service
6. I am working on sending the 1990 hymnals (around 120 copies) as a donation to Churches through Amanda Long, in support of PCUSA and the disaster recovery project.
7. The Sanctuary Choir will participate in a hymn sing at Westminster Canterbury on February 8, 2018 (Thursday, 7:30-8:10 pm).
8. For my reading project in preparation for the Calvin Worship Institution grants writing project and the 2020 vision, I am reading:
 **Church Scape*-Written by Suzanne Power Bratton.
 **Lovin' on Jesus: A Concise History of Contemporary Worship* by Dr. Swee Hong Lim (Church Music Department Chair, Immanuel University Canada) and Dr. Laster Ruth (Duke Divinity School Worship Professor).
9. I am providing information on used pipe organs to the 2020 Sanctuary renovation committee.
10. I am working with Mary Hubbard on writing Liturgical season articles for the Binnacle: "Why do we....."

New Business:

1. Three pianos have been tuned-one in the choir room, two are in the Sanctuary. The Kawai piano in the Choir room needs a dehumidifier installed to keep the humidity at 40-50%. The best piano tuner in Hampton Roads is Mr. Henry Favir, and he has suggested that we install 25W and 85W Dehumidifier equipment. If we install before the end of October, the cost is still under budget.
2. We are updating the Music Library inventory with a better computer program. Chris Horne has volunteered to help every Tuesday from 5-7. We are cleaning the cabinet and music storage room also; it will take a few months.
3. We are connecting through social networks with Little Greek Chaplin Rev. John Potter and trying to find ways we can invite school of music musicians to participate our music program in near future.

Serving the Wider Churches:

- Lecturing for the North America Taiwanese Pastors retreat on "God With Us in Worship-Always being Reformed"-Oct 6-7, 2017 Baltimore
- Harmony event- Oct 15-17, 2017 in Dallas TX
- Hymn Society and Congregational Songs, North America and Canada Executive Committee annual meeting Oct 17-20, 2017 in Dallas TX
- Linda Althof will be the substitute organist on Oct 15, 2017.

Associate Pastor Report – Emma provided a verbal report. She had just returned from vacation and was appreciative of her time off and the support and prayers offered during her absence and visiting with friends and family.

Head of Staff – David provided a verbal report.

SUPPLEMENTAL MINISTRY REPORTS

Emily Rudiger offered congratulations to Christian Education and the preschool for all of their efforts and programming that results in their outreach to the community.

Pam Spillman noted that Community Service is coming in to their "big time" of the year with the development of Thanksgiving baskets, turkey donations, winter shelter clothing drive, etc. thanks in advance to everyone for their support and contributions.

George Wong noted that his minutes were late for Christian Education, but noted the highlights of their current work. There will be some significant improvements to the Living Nativity program looking towards community excitement in the event. Also there will be a "food truck event" to kick off the 2018 Sunday school year.

CLOSING WITH PRAYER

With no further business, the meeting of Session was closed with prayer at 8:07 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION. An executive session was required to convene in order to review and approve the minutes from the September 19th Executive Session meeting. The meeting was called to order at 8:08pm and closed at 8:13. The minutes were approved and a permanent copy will be filed with the church secretary and with PEVA. There were no motions to be presented to the Session resulting from the September meeting.

These minutes approved by the Session on November 21, 2017

WDM / Doug Mitchell

Clerk of Session