

Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting

Bayside Presbyterian Church
20 October 2020 7:00 PM Via Zoom

The Session of Bayside Presbyterian Church met in a Stated Meeting at 7:00 pm via Zoom due to the current COVID-19 social distancing restrictions. Members present, constituting a quorum, were Moderator Rev. Dr. David Rollins, Clerk and Elder Amanda Long and Elders Cherokee Adams, Will Albertoli, Butch Brenton, Clif Furedy, Ed Gluckowski, Richard Guy, Ashley McLeod, Kay Niman Meyers, Bob Orcutt, Michele Parker, Chris Pascuzzi, Mike Raymer, Di Ricks, Thom Sare, Ed Spillman, and Rose Ann Wehr.

Session Members not in attendance: Brenda Reid and Matthew Wicks.

Staff Member Present: Associate Pastor Rev. Emma Ouellette, Chi-Yi Chen Wolbrink, Director of Music and Lacy Schimmel, Director of Youth and Family Outreach.

Visitors to the meeting Rick and Martha Ruddell. Incoming Elders Russ Brown, Connie Schreiber, Braden Wicks, Karyn Simonelli, and Benjamin Hubbard.

Mission: Bayside is a covenant community of Christ's people seeking to know and do the will of God.

Vision: Changing lives by growing Christian disciples and living God's Word.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS – OPENING PRAYER

Joys and concerns were shared and Rev. Rollins opened with prayer.

DEVOTION was shared by Elder Cherokee Adams.

EXAMINATION OF INCOMING ELDERS

The incoming Elders shared their faith journey and statement of faith. The elders were examined by the session.

Motion: Elder Thom Sare moved that we accept the elders with joy and thanksgiving.
The motion passed.

REQUESTS FOR SESSION APPROVAL

1. New Member Requests: None
2. Baptism Requests: None
3. Church Wedding Requests: None

SESSIONAL RECORDS

Clerk of Session

1. Minutes from the last Stated Session Meeting
2. Tonight's Agenda

Motion: It is moved by the Clerk that the Session approve the minutes from last month's Session meeting and the agenda for today's Stated Meeting. **The motion passed.**

STATISTICS

1. Reception of New Members: None
2. Baptisms: None
3. Church Weddings: None
4. Member Transfers: None
5. Member Deaths: None

INVITATION CELEBRATION:

Sharing of invitations to Bayside services, events and programs.
Upcoming opportunities?

None were shared.

FINANCIAL REPORT AND ISSUES:

Balance Sheet & Treasurer's Report

Treasurer and Elder Spillman shared the following report.

September Balance Sheet –

- General Fund is well above the desired \$130K at \$244K
- The organ fund received a \$7K contribution which completed the funding for the installation with pipes in the choir loft
- We are at \$417K of a desired \$450K in pledges and contributions (\$34K left to raise) for the 2020 Vision Campaign - and of the \$417K, less than \$50K is in pledges – the rest is cash.

(We have paid just under \$240K for the renovation work and \$71K for the organ to date)

September Treasurer Report –

- We are at 88% of expected pledges collected at the end of Sept – 89% last month and 82% last year
- Our loss to date is \$52K – of which over \$50K can be explained in pledges. So, if pledges come in by the end of the year – we should be in the black assuming our expenses stay on course.

2021 campaign update –

69 units for \$397+K

2021 Budget –

All ministry inputs received. Stewardship working with ministries individually for initial discussions. Hoping to have a basic budget by Nov Session meeting (final budget depending on pledges).

PPP –

2 points up front

1. We have still not been invited by the bank to apply for forgiveness
2. The start of making payments on the loan has been delayed from Dec – so no pressure for us to take action yet (it appears the new date for starting payments is next summer).

Recommend delay decision until we see more potential impacts unfold

Motion: Elder Will Albertoli moved that we approve the report with thanksgiving. The motion passed.

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

Elder Orcutt shared that 107 attended the PEVA - one inquirer - Outstanding sermon by the Stated Clerk of PCUSA.

Elder Ricks shared - Seemed like other churches are doing a lot to keep those that are not tech savvy engaged in our congregation. Hoping we can find ways to engage in more ways as well.

PEVA / CHURCH INFORMATION

CONTINUING BUSINESS

1. 2020 Vision Update

Pastor Rollins shared that things are going well and moving along. Pew restoration has started. Roof repair is done and inside work is in progress.

Steps are done – seems like it will bring us closer together.

Date of completion is moving back some, but nothing unexpected.

2. COVID 19 Updates

- In person and virtual worship update

Worship –

Rev. Ouellette shared the current survey results. Live until this coming Friday. 85 responses Reviewed the responses to date – will share full results when it completed and will be posted on the session page when available.

Rev. Rollins shared that 85 responses are good. We are still using the science and the Governor's guidelines to make decisions.

Elder McLeod – thanked Rev. Ouellette for her work on putting it together and the tabulations. This needs to go back to worship for review. We do need to talk about how our resources are being used and music and CCLI and the quality of the recordings – we are trying to figure out if the work going into the live sessions is worth the efforts. We have a good response rate. It may not have answered the question of the efforts around virtual worship vs in person. We do need to make a decision about Christmas Eve – some things to consider – no singing – social distance – not sure about timing of the services – masks – will need to figure out how to distance in the new sanctuary. Not sure if sanctuary is going to be open or maybe more space in fellowship hall.

Rev. Rollins – ¼ of leadership (session) have attended in person. There is concern amongst the staff about safety. We need to watch the numbers for the next few weeks as the numbers are increasing.

The issues around the “fair” ratings/responses are around having to wear masks and didn't

seem to have anything to do with the actual quality of the service, more environmental and anxiety around the state of things.

Comments were shared that if we opened without masks, being able to hug/shake hands then people will come.

Chi Yi shared – it is more effort to record – we need to put safety first.

Rev. Ouellette shared that the current state of the pandemic, with the pressure of pastoring the congregation during this time has cause a good deal of stress for her. She expressed concerns about being in the office and at worship.

Lacy shared it is extra work for the in person – technology.

Rev. Ouellette - this is a core part of how we will worship going forward. There is a lot that has to be decided as we move toward making a decision

Elder McLeod shared the worship has added budget to “hire” someone for technology – Rev. Rollins shared that should go to Admin.

Rev. Rollins ask for session’s opinion on Christmas Eve – we need to make a decision about – but maybe we don’t have the information we need to make a decision about in person/virtual. Elder McLeod suggested that we make a decision and know that it is potentially going to have to change.

Elder Furedy – stated that he believes that sanctuary will be available – maybe use one space in person and the other virtual. Rev. Rollins shared that it would take additional technical support and equipment to do that.

Rev. Rollins – we need to be ready, but have high quality

Elder Wehr – shared that we should but safety first and plan for virtual.

Elder Spillman shared that cancelling service in December will cause issues...we have to make the decision tonight.

Elder Pascuzzi asked what happens to visitors if we are unable to accommodate the volume.

Elder Brenton – asked if the staff could be given more opportunity to work from home. Rev. Rollins shared that the staff is there because of feedback from the congregation. To provide more normalcy for the congregation, but that he would review with the staff and Admin.

Elder Furedy made a motion during the meeting that was ultimately withdrawn after the discussion.

The Worship ministry will meet next week – staff will move forward will planning online – will adjust if that decision changes at November session meeting or a called meeting prior to next session.

- Group Meetings – Motion for Blood Drive

Groups have asked to use the space – PW, Presbyterian Men, Scouts

Concerns – social distancing, enforcement of masks and guidelines, and cleaning.

Elder Gluckowsk shared the groups should meet via zoom.

Elder Spillman shared that Presbyterian Men had met one time in person and was advised that they could not further. He also asked what liability do we have to impact to preschool?

Motion: Elder Wehr – moved that we hold off allowing group meetings until we have better numbers and better control before opening for those meetings.

The motion passed.

- Phase three Guidelines from the State of Virginia
 - Limit the occupancy of physical spaces to ensure adequate physical distancing may be maintained.
 - Encourage telework whenever possible
 - When in-person meetings need to occur, keep meetings as short as possible, limit the number of employees in attendance, and use physical distancing practices.
 - Clean high touch areas every 2 hours
 - Social gatherings should be limited to 50% occupancy of the event space, if applicable, or 250 participants, whichever is less.

3. Budget

- Elder Guy – working with individual ministries and hopes to have budget in November/December.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion: Community moves that the Red Cross to hold a blood drive on November 10th. **The Motion Passed.**

There was discussion around allowing the Red Cross to use the space when we had voted to not allow for groups. Ultimately – due to their strict screening process and the fact that they are performing an essential function the motion was passed.

STAFF REPORTS

Director of Music Ministries

Chi-Yi Chen Wolbrink

Chi Yi shared that this was her first time voting in US. Choir is singing in zoom and working on virtual choir. Handbell doing 2 small groups with social distancing. Children's choir is meeting via Zoom. She received invitation to attend Montreat. Will have virtual organ presentation coming soon.

Director of Youth and Family Outreach

Ms. Lacy Schimmel

Youth group has been meeting outside. Has been hosted at homes as well. JAM is meeting on Wednesday via zoom.

Associate Pastor

Rev. Emma Ouellette

Rev. Ouellette share that she was doing regular stuff – liturgy, preaching, pastoral care. Spending time covering for Linda while she was away. She is vacation next week – looking forward to time

off to recharge. She is part of pastor cohort PEVA and Presbytery of the James – bouncing ideas off each other. Planning Advent and book study with Rev. Rollins. Thinking ahead for AV in the future, getting service streamed to website instead of FaceBook.

Pastor / Head of Staff

Rev. Dr. David Rollins

- Oversaw weekly staff meetings
- Planned and prepared for weekly worship
- Co-led Wednesday Evening book study with Emma
- Led weekly Vespers on Sunday nights
- Initiated and participated in fellowship via zoom Coffee & Conversations on Thursdays
- Met Individually with most staff members to touch base
- Began preparing for Advent study and activities
- Offered coaching for some colleagues seeking guidance
- Prayed for session, staff, and membership daily

SUPPLEMENTAL MINISTRY REPORTS

(Items/issues not included in Ministry Minutes)

Elder Parker – is staying in touch with Patrick Long.

CLOSING WITH PRAYER at 9:10pm/

Next Meeting – November 17, 2020 7pm
Elder Rose Ann Wehr Devotion