

Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting

Bayside Presbyterian Church
21 December 2021 7:00 PM In Person Room 508

The Session of Bayside Presbyterian Church met in a Stated Meeting at 7:00 pm. Members present, constituting a quorum, were Moderator Rev. Dr. David Rollins, Clerk Amanda Long and Elders Cherokee Adams, Will Albertoli, Ed Gluckowski, Richard Guy, Benjamin Hubbard, Ashley McLeod, Bob Orcutt, Michele Parker, Karyn Simonelli, Ed Spillman, Tom Weeks, and Rose Ann Wehr.

Session Members not in attendance: Brenda Reid, Di Ricks, Thom Sare, Connie Schreiber, Caroline Tetschner,

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

Visitors to the meeting Elizabethe Velasquez, Paul Verberg

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 Clerk Amanda Long

INCOMING ELDER EXAMINATION

Incoming Elder Elizabethe Velasquez shared her faith journey and story.

Motion: Elder Orcutt moved that we accept the incoming elder with joy, energy, 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 November'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
6. Roll Removal Request: None

INVITATION CELEBRATION:

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

Rev. Rollins shared that the Damuth family encouraged and brought friends to the Living Nativity.

Elder Simonelli shared that her mother has participated in worship and also assisted with Living Nativity.

FINANCIAL REPORT AND ISSUES:

Balance Sheet & Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report – At 98% non-pledge and 109% pledge – Wow. We have had a few congregants contribute significantly over their pledge. These same people increased their 2022 pledge – but not as much as they have been able to give in 2021. I think that means they are not able to commit to the 2021 level of contributions. So, we will utilize these funds carefully. These added funds to save our remaining COVID \$ for the 2022 budget; and we save our interest earned dollars for 2022. Those categories which require attendance to achieve remain way behind and you will see that reflected in the 2022 budget.

Admin has a few anomalies – but will finish the year in the black. There were a couple computer issues: as well as security camera issues and Cox (our internet provider) stopped supporting our domain, which caused numerous support hours to help establish us on another domain.

The annual property insurance bill has not been posted in these numbers; but, it has gone up a couple thousand in the last couple years. Higher insurance costs have reflected in the budget.

Property continues to balance the line.

In Worship – Early December, the A/V operator's costs were moved to the A/V Operator fund (funded by Edna Etheridge in 2021 and by a donor in 2022 and for sometime into the future). Also, the tent that was rented for our outdoor service was moved from Worship and paid from non-budget monies that can't be identified to any other purpose. There was just enough. So, Worship hopefully has enough funds to make through Dec.

Balance Sheet – The General Fund (GF) is \$283K.

A Copier Fund has been added. This is money provided by Xerox (our new copier company) to help pay off the Konica copier contract – which will continue for another 2 years. This fund will

pay the monthly Konica costs. (like a cell phone company buying out your contract)

The 2020 Sanctuary Fund continues to collect contributions – and seems to have at least 2 ideas on how to spend it. So, it will be around a bit longer.

Motion: Elder Orcutt moved that we accept the report with thanksgiving.

The motion passed.

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

None

PEVA / CHURCH INFORMATION

1. PEVA Meetings 2022 – Commissioner’s Needed

- Saturday January 22nd 10am – Grace Covenant Presbyterian – VAB
 - Elders Cherokee Adams and Amanda Long volunteered

Motion: Elder Simonelli moved that Elders Adams and Long be appointed as commissioners for the January 2022 PEVA meeting. **The Motion Passed.**

- Tuesday April 19th 10am – Yorkminster Presbyterian - VAB
- Tuesday July 19th 10am – Second Presbyterian - Grafton
- Tuesday October 18th 10am – Bethany Presbyterian - Zuni

NEW BUSINESS

1. Devotions 2022 – please contact Amanda to sign up

2. Contact Information – please send current contact information to Amanda

3. Election for Clerk of Session

Motion: Elder Guy moved that Elder Amanda Long be appointed Clerk of Session for the 2022 and 2023 years for a two-year term. **The Motion Passed.**

4. Election for Treasurer

Motion: Elder Guy moved that Pam and Ed Spillman be appointed Treasurers for the 2022 year for a one-year term. **The Motion Passed.**

5. Election of Nominating Committee – 2 outgoing Elders from the 2022 Class of Elders.

Motion: Elder Wehr moves that Ashley McLeod and Cherokee Adams be appointed to the 2022 Nominating Committee. **The Motion Passed.**

CONTINUING BUSINESS

1. 2022 Budget

Budget –

1. Last year we had 98 units for \$470K. As of this budget we have 88 units for 469K. I have reviewed the records and placed by guess for non-pledge at \$141K. So, our bottom-line pledge and non-pledge for 2022 are pretty much the same as 2021.

2. The accounts that are impacted by attendance have been adjusted down for 2022. I left interest earned income at \$10,000 because we will not utilize the fund this year and thus it is available for 2022.
3. We will be utilizing all our remaining COVID funds for 2022. So in this budget we show \$75K in the red for the year – which would be \$114K in the red (without COVID Funds). It was \$47K in 2021, with \$41K in COVID Funds. If we assume a normal “non-spend” of \$17-18K, we are just under \$60K unable to pay our bills in 2022 – so our GF balance should reduce by that much, unless we get additional funding help or fail to execute the full budget.
4. Costs – we had adjusted an item from last month’s draft. We added \$2,000 to property liability insurance to more accurately reflect the costs.
5. The general fund is twice what we expect/hope it to be. It is very healthy and a motion will come in January to look at how to best track and account for those funds and using them.
6. Elder Spillman shared “I want to address another item before the floor is open to discussion. The irony is not lost on me we are proposing a pay increase when our excessive gap in funding is being exposed (not covered up by lack of operations costs or by COVID Funds availability to cover lost revenues. The 3% raise proposed is not a merit increase (we can argue until forever whether any one individual deserves a merit increase or not – we all have opinions. This is an increase to adjust pay scales to be compensatory with average pay increases (competition) and inflation. And, when you consider the average pay raise last year was 3%, while our staff received none, and the average pay raise this year is reported to be over 3% - with inflation starting to church at 6% and higher, if we want to keep members of our staff from looking elsewhere – not to mention just taking care of them by trying to keep their pay level, then we owe it pay them added funds and figure out what to do with our budget problem in another way.”

Elder Hubbard asked question about the general fund and the loss and how it is being covered. Elder Spillman shared that we do have a problem to work on, but we have to work on our expenses in 2022. This is an opportunity to determine who we are, where we want to go...we are being forced to change.

Rev. Rollins shared that even with the loss our general fund still has the funds to cover the loss and still be healthy.

Elder McLeod asked if the planning for the future of the church will be included in the session retreat.

Rev. Rollins confirmed it will be.

Elder Hubbard asked what we are being asked to vote on tonight. It was shared that we are voting on the 2022 budget overall and each ministries budget line item. The planning and changes will be what we work on for 2023 and maybe impacts to 2022.

Incoming Elder Verberg shared that COVID funds are covering 39k of the budget – we are budgeting a loss of 75+K loss which will be covered by the general funds. We will work and plan how to adjust so that we are not showing the same loss for 2023. We can’t keep going this way. Rev Rollins shared that we can keep the same pace for about 2 years...but we know we need to adjust.

Elder McLeod shared that the conversation needs to not be just about the budget but will need to be about programmatic and staffing and candid conversations – what are we doing well, what are our weaknesses – how can we work well together to increase membership/attendance. The discussion needs to be not only about finances but also relationships and ministries. She encouraged us to come the retreat ready to discuss and to read the book David has requested us to read. Our Iceberg is Melting

Elder Orcutt reminded us that we can make budget changes mid-year as needed.

Motion: Stewardship moves that we accept the budget as presented. **The Motion Passed.**

STAFF REPORTS

Director of Music Ministries

Chi-Yi Chen Wolbrink

Thanks for the string quartet and they will be back

Thanks to handbells

Thanks to our outreach for the School of Music. We had one member gift his time to us for the Blue Christmas.

Children's choir increased to 12.

Thanks for all the support and kind words and suggestions.

Director of Youth and Family Outreach

Mrs. Lacy Randall

We are up to 12 JAM kids on Wednesdays. (8 steady)

Youth group is up to 8. (6 steady)

The youth will come out after session retreat to use the house for Saturday afternoon through Sunday.

The youth retreat with PEVA was cancelled and has been rescheduled for March

We just finished the peanut sells – only 5 cans left.

Associate Pastor

Rev. Emma Ouellette

Over the past month I have been working on all the meaningful Advent/Christmas services and traditions we have. It's always fun to dive into special services like the Celtic Christmas or Blue Christmas. This past month also brought so much needed time away. I was able to enjoy time with my family in Michigan for Thanksgiving. The first holiday we were all able to celebrate together since 2015!

Here are some more highlights from the month:

- Helped during the thanksgiving basket drive
- Continued my work with the CPM for the Presbytery, and will continue to serve as their moderator for the next 2 years.
- Attended team meetings
- Worked on liturgy and worship planning
- Regular pastoral care phone calls (visits are mostly still on hold)

Moving into 2022 I'm looking forward to all my regular responsibilities but also diving deeper into our online presence and how we can connect with individuals now that more is being done online.

Grateful for the support to all the staff as they navigate the last 2 years.

She shared that she knows that Bayside has some really exciting things coming.

Pastor / Head of Staff

Rev. Dr. David Rollins

In the busyness of Advent, as we close out the year, I look back and give thanks to God for what we were able to accomplish. In addition to my regular responsibilities such as leading staff meetings, guiding and coaching staff, planning and preaching for most worship services over the past month I helped to plan, prepare, and serve soup and sandwiches to try and increase our Advent worship participation. Both worship services went really well, and Emma should be commended for her efforts in putting them together.

As we move into 2022 reflect on where we have been and discern where we are called to go, I see the coming year as a rebuilding year. COVID-19 disrupted a lot of things and as we come out of that our ministry teams need to reach out and search for additional people to join their teams. Please begin to think and pray about who might have the gifts to serve alongside you.

I continue to serve on the Administrative Commission for Great Bridge Presbyterian Church, but they are in the process of electing elders so in the near future our time on site should be greatly reduced. I ask for you to continue to pray for Great Bridge as they seek to move forward after a brief and troubled pastorate.

Personally, I am enjoying watching Mac opening up acceptance letters from colleges and looking forward to watching him continue to grow as we will move him in sometime late summer or early fall. Currently he is leaning heavily on attending Coastal Carolina University, but no firm decision has been made.

He shared thanks to those outgoing elders for their time over a difficult period. He is grateful for all the wonderful people here at Bayside and the talented staff.

SUPPLEMENTAL MINISTRY REPORTS

(Items/issues not included in Ministry Minutes)

Clerk Long shared a message from Elder Schreiber – help is still needed for Winter Shelter and remember to bring any donations as have been promised.

CLOSING WITH PRAYER

Next Meeting – Friday evening January 28th at the Session Retreat *Updated Session Retreat is postponed – Session will meet on the 4th Tuesday January 25th at 7pm*

Devotion Rose Ann Wehr