

# Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting

Bayside Presbyterian Church

18 July 2023

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 and Elder Amanda Long and Elders Cherokee Adams, Betsy Davis, Nancy Guy, Benjamin Hubbard, Paula Jesberg, Marshall Miller, Chris Pascuzzi, Wayne Pollock, Connie Schreiber, Jordan Simonelli, Paul Verburg, and RoseAnn Wehr.

Session Members not in attendance: Annette Conley, Lynne Owen, Karyn Simonelli, and Caroline Tetschner.

Staff Member Present: Associate Pastor Rev. Emma Ouellette, Chi-Yi Chen Wolbrink, Director of Music, and Summer Moore, Director of Faith Formation.

Visitors to the meeting: Tom Winter, Treasurer

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 at 7:03pm.

**DEVOTION** was shared by Elder Betsy Davis.

## **REQUESTS FOR SESSION APPROVAL**

1. New Member Requests: None
1. Baptism Requests: None
2. Reaffirmation of Faith Requests: None
3. Church Wedding Requests: Albert "Bill" Marchand and Victoria Cole on December 9, 2023. Bill is the Uncle of Robert Marchand.

**Motion:** Elder Pollack that we approve the request for the wedding.  
**The motion passed.**

## **SESSIONAL RECORDS**

Clerk of Session

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

**Motion:** It is moved by the Clerk that the Session approve the minutes from May'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: 5/14 Carole Ann Kerr, 6/24 Theresa Dunstan
6. Roll Removal Request: None

### Worship Attendance

\*note change in Facebook and we are having issues reporting the online views – research and problem solving is in progress\*

Month	Date	9:00 AM	11:00 AM	Total	Comments
May	7-May		125	125	Youth Sunday
	14-May	40	68	108	Mother's Day
	21-May	40	98	138	
	28-May		10:00 am 115	115	Pentecost/Memorial Day Wknd
Total		80	291	486	
	AVG	40	73	122	

  

Month	Date	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Total	Comments
Jun	4-Jun		129	129	
	11-Jun		100	100	
	18-Jun		115	115	Guest Minister & Organist
	25-Jun		72	72	Guest Organist
Total		0	416	416	
	AVG	0	104	104	

### Christian Education Statistics

Summer has advised that she hasn't recorded much as far as numbers for the past month because  
a. no youth group, b. Sunday school has been nonexistent, c. little data to record from nursery.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT AND ISSUES:**

Balance Sheet & Treasurer's Report (posted to website)

### Income:

We have dropped from 88% in April to 82% in May and now 80% of budget for total offerings which includes similar declines from 94% to 87% to 81% for pledge offering. Non-pledge rose to 73% in June. As a point of reference, in June of 2022, Offerings totaled \$383,722 and 120% of budget compared to June 2023 totaling \$251,981 and 80%. As a result, the Stewardship committee has plans to send thank you notes to our pledge units which will include a YTD (first half) giving statement as a gentle reminder.

### Expenses:

Congregational Care and Education Expenses are still above budget, but explainable due to timing. All other expense categories are favorable to budget. Overall, we are at 94% YTD on

budgeted expenses. Again, for reference, total expenses in June 2022 were ~\$350,000 compared to ~\$379,000 in 2023 (difference in salaries and benefits of filled DoE position).

Balance Sheet:

The General Fund (GF) is down to <\$67K. – Down as a reflection of the income and expenses explained above. YTD we are down over \$100,000 which currently exceeds the “budgeted” \$79,000 projected General Fund loss.

Elder Jesberg asked how the difference in non-pledge came about- Tom shared that there was a large non pledged donation that has skewed the numbers a bit.

Elder Miller asked if the latter half of the year we see the usual increases will that get us back on track. Tom stated it would.

Rev. Rollins shared that he had asked if we needed to move funds and was advised no, the funds are there if needed but no action is needed.

Elder Jesberg asked about drawing from the Endowment funds. What is available is based on the interest on the accounts. Endowment receives request and then recommends to session for the funds to be approved. Session makes final approval for distribution of funds.

Tom shared \$400,000 +\$50,000 deposits are pending from Cannell Estate.

Elder Miller asked if unused funds roll or what happens, the funds are moved to a money market and remains available.

Elder Verburg asked for percentages to be made in dollars. Shared numbers and then advised that he felt we had issues and believes that sooner or later we need to discuss how to move forward.

Elder Davis shared that giving is not like it used to be and we don't see the weekly donations, and more and more are giving in lump sums and in different years.

**Motion:** Elder Adams moved that we approve the report as presented.

**The motion passed.**

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

None

### **PEVA / CHURCH INFORMATION**

#### 1. PEVA Meetings 2023/2024

- Tuesday July 25, 2023, 10am – Wycliffe Presbyterian – Virginia Beach
  - Elders Jesberg and Verburg will report at next meeting.
- Tuesday October 24, 2023, 10am – Bayside Presbyterian – Virginia Beach
  - Note: Please add to your calendars as many volunteers will be needed.
  - Last PEVA Presbytery Meeting prior to Rev. Hendricks retirement – potentially larger than normal attendance
- Saturday January 27, 2024, 10am – Great Bridge Presbyterian – Chesapeake

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### 1. From Endowment:

Having earlier approved a \$5000 expenditure for the Website Redesign, the Endowment Committee has approved the following recommendations: **Motions are needed for A and B.**

- A. Fund \$5,000 in college scholarships (5 students @ \$1,000 each) (requested by Summer Moore)

**Motion:** Elder Hubbard moved that we approve the request for \$5000 from Endowment funds for 2023/2024 scholarships. **The motion passed.**

- B. Fund \$5,650 for cost and travel expenses for the Raleigh Ringers performance and workshop (championed by George Wong and Chris Pascuzzi)

**Motion:** Elder Guy moved that we approve the request for \$5,650 from Endowment funds for cost and travel expenses for the Raleigh Ringers performance and workshop. **The motion passed.**

- C. Deferred the approval of a request for funds for Easter special music in 2024 – expected to approve in January of 2024

The total allocation from Endowment for 2023 is \$19,140, so \$3,490 is still available.

## **CONTINUING BUSINESS**

### 1. Book Discussion – *Think Again* by Adam Grant – Chapters 1 to 8

We discussed the book questions – What are your thoughts on charged conversations, Elder Verburg advised that we all are different and that we should be able to have good conversations despite our differences and find plans to move forward to solve problems we have. He feels we are not making progress on things we discuss. He shared that he did not understand why we can't get along and have productive conversations.

How do we make sure all voices are heard and valued. Elder Jesberg shared that is based on who is in the discussion, and that a moderator may need to intervene and assist with any conflict. Summer shared that she felt it about task orientation vs people arguments. That we should assume the best in people first rather than dismissing them because we don't agree. Elder Pollack shared that he slows down and gives himself 3 seconds and uses we instead of I statements. Elder Pascuzzi shared that we needed to be a better listener and to give people a chance to speak and to be heard. Elder Jesberg stated that she feels we are not doing enough conversation in our meetings. Feels we need to have small groups to handle the issues and bring them to the session. She feels we need to have more conversations.

### 2. Matthew 25 Discussion – Link to Information

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/>

We discussed this at prior retreat and shared the tenants of Matthew 25. Elder Verburg asked “aren’t we doing this now” what does becoming a Matthew 25 church mean. Elder Guy shared that having a public commitment is important. And that the churches that are succeeding and growing have taken this step. She feels that this is a well thought out program to address some of the biggest issues that affect our planet. Making the commitment also allows us to tap into a bigger network and would align us with the church that are part of. We need to figure out our WHY. Elder Miller shared that CVT survey with the congregation, staff and session will help us find our way. Elder Guy shared that we need to step up as leaders and then lead. People way smarter and more schooled in the ways of the church have drafted the Matthew 25 program and is a way forward for the church. We don’t have to reinvent the wheel.

Elder Long suggested that perhaps we table Matthew 25 until we have identified our why and then round back to it..

Elder Guy read the Matthew 25 focus and guidelines.

Elder Hubbard shared that the 3 topics are not the same. And discussed the differences.

Rev. Rollins shared that if you are actively involved in actively involved in poverty and racism will engage community around us – to build vitality.

Elder Guy we must start with the WHY... that is part of Matthew 25. Once we engage and get to know our community the rest of it falls in place.

Elder Verburg shared that we have to solve our financial problems before we can do anything else. We are not the church of before.

Elder Long shared that we must do both at the same time... one without the other.

Rev. Rollins shared that we have more resources that 90% of churches across this country.

Elder Jesberg read the Why question from Sunday.

Multiple voices shared that we had to go back to the why – we must get more events and programs and fix the budget issues, but we have to start with the WHY. Elder Guy shared that people crave the engagement.

Elder Miller shared that the most striking thing he heard from the retreat is that if we focus on us – no one else will care.

Elder Jesberg shared the joys and blessings of our music program. Networking, and are engaging in the congregation. She shared Chi Yi is doing God’s work. She also pointed out the Community Service Ministry, noting it is a wonderful model and thriving.

### 3. Session Retreat Follow Up

- a) We agreed on a follow-up meeting on Monday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. We agreed to send our Why to Elder Long and that she would gather and send to all to review. Everyone should some come prepared to discuss the Why for Bayside and we will hopefully settle on our collective Why going forward. The Why for Bayside, why do we bother doing ministry – what should be our driving motivator.
- b) Once the Why is determined, we will review the 10 suggestions (and others we may have) that Rev. Carrusco provided and determine next steps, including the who will be working on the task the timing and expectations for reporting back.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

## Director of Music Ministries

Chi-Yi Chen Wolbrink

- \* Invitation to Children's Choir and parents to join Summer Walk-in Choir.
- \*Organ company working crew are installing more lower pipes on July 12 and 13.
- \*Choir room and robe room are going to be renovated from August 5th-September 1 st .
- \*We hosting a Collaborative Handbell workshop with Haygood UMC, Kings Grant PC and Church of Holy Family on September 23 rd from 3:30-4:30 pm with the Raleigh Ringers.

Below are Highlights of Sunday services for the coming months

July 23 Chi Yi Away, Con-Ed, Janet Phelps subbing organist  
July 30 VBS Sunday  
Sep 3 rd Last Sunday of Summer service 10am  
Oct 1 st Consecration Sunday, World Communion Sunday  
Oct 22 Possible Anniversary celebration  
Nov 5 th Daylight saving time ends.  
Nov 26 Christ the King  
Dec 3 rd First Advent, Christmas Cantata

\*Planning the Fall season music, which includes Advent, Christmas until Epiphany.

\*Service for the wider church:

PAM 2024: Co-director and planning team, Zoom meeting every other Monday.  
Received an invitation from Emmanuel College of Victoria University in the University of Toronto to co-author an essay with Rev. Dr. Jonathan Seitz for a volume to honor Rev. Dr. I-to Loh, the former President of Tainan Theological College and Seminary. Please see the attached letter.

\*Outside professional connections:

Adjunct Professor, Norfolk State University, Music Department, Fall 2023. The semester starts on August 21 st .

\*Continuing Education OR Vacation??

Asian Immigration Churches conference July 21-24, Woodbridge NJ  
Monthly Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM) and Hymn Society webinars.  
Tentatively trip to Taiwan, December 26, 2023-Jan 16, 2024

Reflections from PAM 2023; Music & Arts and Worship conference

Theme-Thirst No More

This is my 12 th year participating in the PAM Montreat conference. As one of the 7 planning team members, I feel responsible for helping make this conference very inspirational. How can

we help congregations use tried-and true methods, real-life nuts and bolts, in the right way?

A new event during worship services was the inclusion of two service musicians who provided leadership. These two musicians brought a wide variety of languages and songs to our worship. Sharing what we've learned in our own congregations, we sang, prayed and worshiped in ways that reflected the true diversity of PAM.

I did an interest session on how Asian Hymns have influenced World Christianity. I was thrilled to have help from former colleague Rev. Kim Coyle to do the PowerPoint. Our new bee Seminary graduate Patrick Long also attended. The session was well attended and also attracted multicultural church pastors. I was thrilled after my presentation to have people ask me to offer more information from Asian hymnals.

The Artist of the conference this year is Steve Prince, Resident Artist of Engagement from the College of William&Mary in Williamsburg. Steve's art has brought a lot thinking and discussion because its so different from past conference artists. There was a black and white banner up each day with a different theme for worship. The art class was fascinating; people were asked to tell their own faith story through the arts. It was a truly therapy through the arts.

The conference also provided a wonderful opportunity on intergenerational setting, drumming class was one of them, you can see the picture as below; the adult drummer is John Fritz, from Kings Grant PC, played with two young worshipers as postlude at the end of worship, they became good friend after a week class together.

#### **Director of Faith Formation**

**Summer Moore**

In the past month, I have spent most of my office time coordinating details/parents for the Montreat youth conference (7/9-7/15) and coordinating details/volunteers for Vacation Bible School. We hosted a packing meeting for Montreat at the church, as well as a volunteer training for VBS. Cherokee and I took three youth to Montreat and experienced the conference's theme "In.Joy", together through worship and recreation. Christian education is excited for the Session to review the scholarship requests of 5 applicants this year. I have started making general plans for the fall, including a family ministry season opener event in September, and have started to plan how we will promote Christian education events for the length of the school year.

#### **Associate Pastor**

**Rev. Emma Ouellette**

In June I had the amazing opportunity to travel to Greece and learn more about Paul's journey in the bible. It was an amazing trip and I am so thankful I had the opportunity to go. Before the trip I worked on several small projects that required my attention before I left. Here are some highlights from June and July.

- Continued work with the CPM for presbytery
- Worked with Linda Vogl to go through membership of confirmed youth in Church windows
- Attended Rise Against Hunger
- Preached twice
- I've helped Summer with Vacation Bible School brainstorming and prep
- Did pastoral visits and calls

- Stayed in communication with our website coordinator to start organizing the kick off of our website overhaul in August
- Worked on Summer and Fall liturgy for worship
- Started prep work on a special project for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration

I'm sure there is more my brain isn't recalling at this moment. The summer has been really busy and has gone by quickly. I know the fall will bring several special events and opportunities and I'm looking forward to sharing those with you.

Joyfully,  
Emma

**Pastor / Head of Staff**

**Rev. Dr. David Rollins**

Rev. Rollins shared the following.

Dear Bayside friends and family,

At the moment my heart is both heavy with grief and full of joy. These conflicting emotions come on the heels of a phone call I received. Recently the search committee for the Presbytery of St. Augustine informed me that, I was their unanimous choice to be their next leader. After my own time of prayerful reflection, I have graciously accepted that call. In light of that decision, I am writing to inform you that August 23 will be my last day at Bayside. I love you, I love this church, and I love Virginia Beach. I am sad for what I will be leaving, but excited about what lies ahead in Jacksonville, FL.

First and foremost, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve Christ with you at Bayside over the past 13 years. We have enjoyed a long, effective partnership in ministry. As with any ministry we have experienced ups and downs, joys and sorrows, challenges, and celebrations. Through it all God has been our rock and Christ has been our guide.

God calls in God's time, in the life of faith things unfold in Kairos time not Chronos time. It is hard to explain the evolution of a call. I have felt a tug in my heart to serve the wider church for some time. I shared this with colleagues and mentors who affirmed my gifts and told me I would do well in a presbytery leadership role. Multiple conversations with churches and presbyteries confirmed this sense of call. Ultimately, I am going into a ministry setting and a place where I believe I can serve Christ most effectively in the next season of my ministry. I covet your prayers for me and my family during this time.

While transitions such as these are never easy, my prayers have led me to believe this is not only the right time for me, but it is the right time for Bayside as well. Bayside is in a great place. You have incredible people serving on staff and a remarkable and dedicated session. You have an abundance of resources in finances and a depth of talent and gifts. An in-depth mission study with new leadership will have you well positioned for the future. There is still much to do for God in this community. Christ was served well here long before I arrived, and Christ will be served well here long after I am gone. I pray that you realize and live up to your potential. As you do your own prayerful discernment, I hope you come to understand that Bayside's best days are in front of you not behind you.



I know that in the coming weeks as you and I process this decision there will be both laughter and tears, and you have no doubt heard me say on multiple occasions tears and laughter both cleanse the soul. While I will be moving, you will forever be in my heart and prayers. Once again, I thank God for my time with you.

Peace,

David N. Rollins

Words of congratulations were shared and Rev. Rollins confirmed his last Sunday will be August 20<sup>th</sup> and the last day in the office Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Rev. Ouellette shared that she is excited for Rev. Rollins and for the opportunity to step up and support the church during the transition. She asked for grace, kindness and support through the time. She also advised that for right now, our focus should be the celebration of Rev. Rollin's ministry.

Elder/Clerk Long shared a couple of points of order/information. Rev. Ouellette is called as Bayside's Associate Pastor and it would not be proper or her call to become our lead Pastor. She advised that this process is a slow and thoughtful one. We will look to PEVA to provide us with direction and next steps and will seek guidance and discernment. There are voices in the system that believe that we are no longer a two pastor congregation, and that conversation is one that should happen when Rev. Ouellette's call comes to an end, but that time is not now. We are in a covenant agreement with her and Rev. Rollins announcement of his call ending with Bayside does not change her call or our commitment to that call. She asked that we as Elders step up and lead the congregation through the transition. That we pray for Rev. Rollins and his family, for the Presbytery he has been called to serve, our staff, our congregation and for the person that God is working to call to our community of faith.

#### **SUPPLEMENTAL MINISTRY REPORTS**

(Items/issues not included in Ministry Minutes)

Elder Schreiber shared that the school supply drive has started.

#### **CLOSED WITH PRAYER by Rev. Ouellette at 8:30pm**

Next Meeting August 15, 2023, 7:00pm

Devotion Elder Marshall Miller