

Session Meeting Summary
December 21, 2023

Beginning at 6:30 p.m., George Johnston (Ruling Elder) opened the meeting with prayer.

Examination of New Elders and Deacons

New Elders are Kendyll Schoonover, Kristen Schoonover, Kathy Schmidt, Sharon Macklin and Joe Freimuth

New Deacons are Jessica Larsen, Marge Lancaster, Lana Henderson and Nedra Mesnard

Building Report on Fire Recovery: Phil Toops

Bathrooms are completed. Jay Macklin still needs to complete the flooring in the music room/office/bathroom. PW purchased Christmas trees that were on sale. 2-12' for front of sanctuary, 1-9' for Hagman Hall, 1-6' for Sunday School hallway. Phil has purchased 5 TV's with soundbars which were also on sale. 4-43" & 1-50". Sound equipment is not complete. Still working with Rachelle. Lighting, Broom Lounge, & office furniture still on order. Will be in after the first of the year. Rachelle will be getting rid of her metal desk in the music office. If anyone wants it let Phil know. Cabinetry still being worked on in the Pastor Office, storeroom, office & windowsills. WiFi & security-Barlow still needs to finish cabling. Alarm system is ready to go. Will be through a landline. Will need one dedicated line for the fire system. Fiber optic cable has been run to the building, but not inside yet. Pews are installed. The 2 TVs in the front will be installed with the sound system. Missing sanctuary radiator covers that were accidentally discarded are still on order. \$17,000 cost will be covered by Servpro. Six pendants & 10 sconces for the sanctuary have a cost of \$29,000. Working on moving the foyer thermostat to have the walls painted with artwork. Servpro still working on the \$5000 bill that Wright's sent to the church. Larger items are being moved back into the church. Moving other items around that were in the classrooms. Phil has reset the timers on the outside lights. There are 1300 boxes of items that Servpro cleaned & stored that need to be unpacked and gone through. They will bring a little at a time. This will be a January project. Rachelle is working with the new clavinova & organ. We are in good shape with the city on the preliminary walkthrough. Finish carpenters are working-bulletin boards, doors came in early & are hung. Windows for them not in yet. We should be completely in the church by the end of February. Congregation being patient has paid off. Contents limit paid \$215,000. There are limits on this coverage that can be backed out. Katie's claim can go on her homeowners (\$15-18,000) will come back to the church. The sound system (considered building coverage & not contents) had a religious facility endorsement which will pay at replacement instead of depreciated value. Initially paid at depreciated value & now will have money coming back. Possibly 40,000+. Some items that were in the church will not be replaced. Old curriculums etc. There are 600+ pages of items that were in the church. Phil is going through & checking out errors. Maximizing the benefit of the insurance claim. Computers had a separate endorsement. Inland marine with \$25,000 coverage. Money spent from contents fund including Katie's items is around \$40,000. Aaron Toops's company will install the WiFi & Security system @ \$5700 and will monitor & troubleshoot at no cost. If others installed would have cost \$12,000 plus monitoring fees.

Clerk's Report:

- **ACTION:** Approved Minutes of the November 16, 2023, Stated Session Meeting and the December 5, 2023, Congregational Meeting.

Membership: Letters went out on November 28, 2023, to 16 current members asking for membership intention within one month or we will assume they desire to be placed on the inactive list. We had six responses as of meeting time. We will follow up in January to allow more time to respond.

Treasurer and Finance Committee Report:

Financial Review - Tom Henderson reported pledge response has been better than usual at this time compared to last year. There are five outstanding that he expects to receive. Income is within \$18,000 of the planned budget for the year with some additional year-end pledges still expected to be received. Montreat expenses of \$18,000 were discussed and the youth plan to have fundraisers to get the amount down. It is a separate budgeted item for 2024 for the first time. The background of the Schopmeyer account was given. The current fund balance is \$797,000. There is no plan for distribution at this time with the possible need of funds for a possible pastor search company.

ACTION: Accepted the financial statements.

Tom shared a recent email from Pastor Katie with updates on her seeking a loan to purchase the house from the church by the end of the year. There is a snag as she was let go from employment with HSHS for structural realignment. She has another job with One Hope United as of the first of the new year. However, a loan requires 3-4 months of employment history so it will be delayed. It was agreed to continue having her pay monthly at this time. **ACTION:** A motion was approved authorizing Tom and/or Theresa to seek legal counsel paid for by general funds to advise and draw up a contract.

Pastor Search – A Pastor Information Form from Burt McGlawn for interim pastor was previously emailed to the elders. He will be available as of the first of the year. Theresa will contact him for a possible visit and interview with Session on the first available date that Burt agrees to.

Committee Reports

Deacons - There were no in-home communions for the past month.

Presbyterian Woman – Presbyterian Women are collecting for “Captain Underpants” through the end of December. There will be a Christmas decorated box at the Chapel each Sunday to collect items for Unit 40 schools. Items needed include sweatpants (sizes 4-18), underwear, socks, mittens, gloves, and hats. The schools will distribute these items to kids as they need them.

Administration & Worship – Chair Sharon Macklin – Liaison Roger Stevenson

Next Communion is on December 24, 2023.

Summary of Meeting Notes:

Homebound communion needs to be happening.

Communion dates for the new year were reviewed.

The number of elders for the session was discussed. There are currently 12 adults and one teen which is a high number for the size of our congregation. Any change would require the congregation’s approval to change the church by-laws and could happen at the January Congregational Meeting.

ACTION: Session Approved:

- Pam Slone and Sharon Macklin to volunteer for homebound communion until a new pastor has been hired. They would like to begin this with the Christmas Eve service.
- 2024 Communion Dates:

January 7
February 21 Ash Wednesday (should be February 14)
March 10
March 28 Maundy Thursday
March 31 Easter Sunday
May 5
May 26 Pentecost Sunday (should be May 19)
June 9
July 7
August 11
September 8
October 6 World Communion Sunday
November 24 Christ the King Sunday
December 24 Christmas Eve

- Beginning in 2025, the Session would like to reduce the number of Session members from twelve to nine. Our congregation numbers are down, and this would make our session numbers comparable to other churches of our size.

Additional Discussion: With communion and new officer ordination and installation on January 7, a minister is required. One has not been found yet. George said he is the backup as a Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) if one is not found.

Faith Formation – Kristen Schoonover

Summary of Meeting Notes:

Youth Education:

Elementary Kid's Club K to 5th Grade- We had a great Christmas Party at Lana's. Kids did crafts, ate happy meals and played games. Brooks Swinderman and Kelly Bingham helped Lana. A few youth group members were there to help as well.

Junior High and High School youth group- We enjoyed some Christmas fun at Dahnke's. We also had a great Christmas party at Lana's. Enjoyed Pizza, movie and a gift exchange. We also visited Amber Wendt's for dessert and Christmas fun this past weekend.

We had our Christmas program with kids ages 3 to 18 participating. It was a great time.

Dan and Kristen would like to plan a night at Camp Carew for January 27th and 28th. We will cook meals there at the camp.

Adult Education & Activities:

The Gathering Group: College Age/Young adult (18 to Twenties) They were at the progressive dinner. They are planning more activities.

Chicks on Lit (Ladies Book Club)- Christmas Party is being held at Lisa's on January 20th. Reading the *Christmas Train* and watching the movie at the party.

JOY (Just Older Youth 55+)- January we are skipping. Laura suggested a Fondue night at church in either January or February. Looking at February if we can get moved back in the church.

"Stages Not Ages" (All Adults)- We are working on the classes for the spring. We will plan additional activities.

Dinner club –

1. January: Firefly- 2 Nights- Lisa will get reservations.
2. February: Country Club February 3rd
3. March: Rosatti's
4. April: Richard's Farm
5. May (Last week)- Pinky's – 2 nights
6. June- Longbranch in Shelbyville?

ACTION: Session Approved

- Jr. and Sr. High Youth Group – Overnight at Camp Carew for January 27th and 28th

Mission – Theresa Harner – Amy Hoffmeister Session Liaison

Summary of Meeting Notes

- Manna Closet –December - shampoo. Due to space, we will discontinue collection until we are back in our building.
- Outdoor Food Pantry – Since some are concerned that recent break-ins at the church might be related to the homeless looking for the Manna Closet, it was discussed of having food available in an outdoor food pantry. We want to continue to serve those in need. Locations were discussed as free-standing on the covered porch at the front entry or permanent ground placement in the circle drive. Regardless of where it is, it needs to be well lit. Darlene will research some options.
- El Shaddai – They are looking for funds towards a new furnace they received along with advertising on Facebook for groceries. Our question is how do we want to share our support with others? How do we get more involved?
- Operation Christmas Child –There were 210 boxes packed and shipped.
- Budget – Tom Henderson discussed our 2024 Mission Pledge budget of \$17,510. Theresa will check how the Presbytery uses our mission money. What we pledge is not a set amount.

ACTION: Session Approved

- Committee to pursue Outdoor Food Pantry options.

Building & Grounds – Ellen Ritz

Summary of Meeting Notes:

Many things happened in the church fire restoration. Cleaning of Sunday school wing, Cabling being run/Cabinetry being built/bathroom stools & plumbing completed/kitchen sinks/disposal installed. Working with Jamie Stang on ideas for foyer. Pews in place in sanctuary but not installed.

Tree trimming to be addressed, also possible cleanup of inspiration garden/arbor & burn pile on warmer days.

Joann Wear updated job description for cleaning the church. The new job description will soon be provided to the session for approval.

No Requests of Action by Session

Additional Session Discussion: The ditch maintenance is still a concern. Jerry Tolliver will contact the City of the Sarah Bush Lincoln HealthCare property development that could affect the church property.

OLD BUSINESS

- Staff Reviews were completed on Rachelle Cekander, Debbie Nolan, Donna Stevenson, and Dan Kingery.

NEW BUSINESS

- Due date of committee reports will be January 12 for the Congregational Annual meeting January 28, 2024. Reports should be sent to the Session Clerk.
- Officer Elder Training – George shared some information with Theresa for training. She will also check the PSEI website if there is any listed.
- Committee Chairpersons for 2024
 - Administration & Worship – Jason Larsen Liaison with Sharon Macklin as Chair
 - Faith Formation – Lisa Light
 - Mission – Matt Cekander Liaison with Theresa Harner as Chair
 - Building & Grounds – Nancy Joslyn
- Presbytery Annual Year-end Reports
 - Report of Churches and Officers (on elder commissioners) due January 4, 2024. Theresa completed.
 - Session On-Line Annual Statistical Report (Membership, congregational, racial and financial stats) due February 15, 2024. The session will review the report at January meeting before submission.
- Christmas Bonuses – **ACTION:** Session approved a motion of the following: Rachelle Cekander \$500, Dan Kingery \$100, Debbie Nolan \$1,000, Judy Wiethop \$50 and Donna Stevenson \$50
- Thank you to outgoing Members.

Stated meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. with closing prayer by George Johnston

Next meeting is January 18, 2024, 6:30 p.m.