

Session Meeting Summary
February 15, 2024

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

Building Report on Fire Recovery: Phil Toops

There is a leak in Rachelle's area and the narthex that needs repairing. ServePro will have a final walk through on Friday other than their final cleaning next week. The punch list is almost done. The electricians will be putting in the sanctuary lighting on Friday along with other electrical issues. Ron Walls has been working with deliveries. Office furniture is to be delivered on Monday. All the furniture for Broom lounge and senior high room has been delivered. Ron is cleaning the offices. Fred and JoAnn Wear have purchased the cleaning supplies. Ron will assist those going through boxes next week. We will need a few days' notice to move into the offices to all the copier to be moved which is a cost of \$150. We still need to purchase a phone system for the office. Consolidated still needs to run wire between the D-mark in the boiler room and the fire alarm system. ServePro's invoice is \$149,395. We do not have the sound system and streaming yet. The excess pews were moved to Jerry's Tolliver's previous classroom and could be set up as a possible chapel. Jerry's classroom moved to the end of the hall. Anyone purchasing stuff for their classroom should talk with Phil to get tax-exempt purchase. Some personal items on Rachelle's list still need to be addressed. The 1300 boxes previously announced to go through is actually only 130 and all are in the church. ServePro misquoted with an extra "0". The pictures and plaques were saved and cleaned. They are ready to be rehung. If anyone needs to know where they previously were, check with Phil. He has a walk through on his phone of where everything was before the fire. All pews have been fixed for placement. All glass in in all doors requiring it. The cameras are up and working outside. They are good quality, motion sensitive and in color. They store three terabytes at a time. Aaron's company has been monitoring for glitches and will update whenever needed. The Helpdesk is available. This includes all devices. The wi-fi system will have a barcode to scan with your phone to gain access to. The City has to make sure the fire alarm system is connected. They have done a preliminary walk through. They will need to be contacted again when we are ready to occupy.

Clerk's Report:

ACTION: Approved Minutes of the January 18, 2024, Stated Session Meeting, January 28, 2024, Annual Congregational Meeting, Email votes of February 2 (Ash Wednesday service at Ron Diehl Center and Lenten Study on Wednesdays during Lent) and February 5 (hire Ron Walls for \$16.00/hr. for receiving deliveries at the church).

Treasurer and Finance Committee Report:

Financial Review – The Building Fund balance has an excess of \$59,000 because funds being used are solely as State Farm fire claims. Pledges are above last year's total. The General Offering is a little behind last year's as there were two annual donations made in January last year. Non-budgeted items of Manna Closet and Montreat income appear in 2023 but will be their own budgeted items in 2024. Overall Net Income is okay. Expenses are down because of no salary for a pastor. There is a new breakdown for each committee to review their expenditure compared to budget.

ACTION: Accepted the financial statements.

We are waiting for the contracts that attorney Chris Koester is preparing regarding Katie Orth being unable to secure a loan at this time (due to a job change) to purchase the house and the \$50,000 reimbursement owed to the church for credit card use.

Pastor Search –The terms of a contract with Interim candidate Rev. Jerol (Burt) McGlawn were reviewed. **ACTION:** Motion passed to accept as presented. It will now go to the Commission on Ministry for approval on behalf of Presbytery. Rev. Burt expects to begin March 1.

Committee Reports

Deacons - Training Meeting was held February 7, 2024.

Presbyterian Woman – Nancy Joslyn

Sent Valentines to older members and friends of the church. In March, PW will collect non-perishable food for three families in need.

Administration & Worship – Chair Sharon Macklin – Liaison Jason Larsen

Communion was February 14, 2024, for Ash Wednesday. Next communion is March 10, 2024.

Summary of Meeting Notes:

6 of the 8 committee members were present. No old business to review.

New business:

- Discussed possibly combining Ash Wednesday service with the Episcopalian congregation at the Cross. Rachele Cekander was able to reserve the Ron Diehl Center for that night for only \$60. At end of discussion, the committee voted to have our Ash Wednesday service at the Ron Diehl Center. Reverend Bob Goebel from Decatur will be performing this service.
- Discussed Easter cantata. Normally Easter cantata is on Palm Sunday. This is the weekend of our high school musical. Therefore, we would not have young people participating in the cantata because of all the time being spent on school musical practices. Rachele suggested having a cantata possibly for the grand opening of our church building. We feel having our young people participate in a cantata is very special and important to our church.
- Manual of Operations.
 - Reviewed minor changes made to job descriptions of church personnel which will be included in our Manual of Operations.
 - Reviewed Building Usage Contract form. Made note of a few revisions to be made by Sharon Macklin. This form will also be part of the Manual of Operations.
 - Rita Toops will be researching a form to be used for funeral planning with families. Rita asked Kristen Schoonover to give us a copy of the youth participation form.
 - Sharon will ask Roger Stevenson to create a Sexual Misconduct Policy receipt form. This form will be given to all volunteers working with children, along with a copy of the Sexual Misconduct Policy.

Additional Session Discussion: A date for the Easter Cantata is tabled.

Faith Formation – Kristen Schoonover on behalf of Lisa Light

Summary of Meeting Notes:

Youth Education:

We are excited to plan more events and our classes for all ages as we move back into our building. Our first focus is to get the Sunday School wing ready for Sunday School and Youth Group meetings. Camp Carew was a hit with the youth. We had a nice evening and morning of worship. They will be having a Super Bowl Party at the Henderson's

The youth fundraiser will be kicking off, as the silicone bracelets have been ordered. A parent meeting will be scheduled in the next week or so for Montreat.

Adult Education & Activities:

The Gathering Group: College Age/Young adult (18 to Twenties) have an activity planned for February 16th at Laurel's.

Chicks on Lit (Ladies Book Club)- is reading *Looking for Salvation at the Dairy Queen* by Susan Gregg Gilmore and *The Tiffany Girls* by Shelley Nicole for the February 19th meeting.

Joy and Stages Not Ages will have events planned after we are settled back in Church. Dinner Club will post plans for next month.

Lenten Bible Study begins February 21st and will be held at McCallister's Deli from 6 to 7 on Wednesday nights.

We will be working on an event to Welcome our Church family back into the Church.

Confirmation: Kristen has contacted Rev. Burt McGlawn to discuss plans regarding Confirmation. She will be contacting parents to discuss it further.

Additional Session Notes: Kristen will continue leading the Lenten Study. Both Kristen and Burt will meet with Confirmation parents.

ACTION: Session Approved

- Junior and Senior High to attend Community United Church of Christ in Urbana (part of our weekly Sunday School lessons learning about other churches)
- Junior and Senior High ice skate for their weekly fellowship time either February 18th or February 25th (date tbd). They will take the church van.

Mission – Theresa Harner – Matt Cekander Session Liaison

Summary of Meeting Notes

- Outdoor Food Pantry –We discussed the location and design of the Pantry. Joe Freimuth agreed he could make it. A location was discussed of being easy access from the parking lot and somewhat close to Maple St. We will ask Property to approve a location. We discussed keeping the stock in the janitor closet like before but will consider a pantry cabinet for Hagman Hall making it easier for Debbie to get stock. It could be on wheels making it easier to change locations outside of the Hall. Joe Freimuth highly recommended it be within sight of a camera because of vandalism. There are currently cameras outside in some areas.
- Special Offerings – One Great Hour of Sharing for Lent to collect on Cantata Sunday or Palm Sunday as the Cantata will not be on Palm Sunday this year.
- Name Tags – We would like to have paper name tags available every Sunday at worship to make worship more welcoming to new people. Due to limited space at the cross, we might wait until we are back in the church.

- Grief Share Invitation – Christ’s Church is offering a 13-week video class beginning March 7 at 6:30 p.m. We will share this invitation with the rest of the church. For more information you can call them at 217-821-9184 or go to GriefShare.org to register online.

Additional Session discussion:

- Synod offers grants up to \$1500 for new initiatives. This could be something to consider for the Outdoor Food Pantry. Need to check their website.
- The annual Mission Trip will be to Kentucky July 7-12.

No Requests of Action by Session

Building & Grounds – Ellen Ritz – Nancy Joslyn Session Liaison

Summary of Meeting Notes:

Moving along with finishing punch list items in the church. Some furniture ready to deliver and some in transit. Phil has a plan for getting items into proper rooms & unpacked. The committee will be painting shelving in PW closet. Ron Walls would like the janitor position at the church. Looking forward to spring cleanup on the grounds after church move in.

ACTION: Session Approved

- General cleaning duties with possible changes in the future. A digital copy will be provided to Sharon Macklin to be included in the Policy Manual.
- Hiring Ron Walls for the janitor position with salary to be negotiated by the administrative committee. (\$8000 currently budgeted for 2024) Current rate will be \$16.00 to be reviewed again in 60 days. He will be hired as an employee of the church.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- 2024 Personnel Committee – Jerry Tolliver volunteered to be chair for 2024. Theresa will check with Jason Larsen if he would volunteer as the second elder. Current At-Large members are Eric Light (2024) and JoAnn Wear (2025).
- George asked on behalf of Presbytery that Effingham allow them to meet at our church on June 15, 2024, as a celebration of being back in our building and for their regularly scheduled meeting. All present agreed.
- Kristen announced there is a parent meeting on Wednesday after the Lenten study for those who have kids wanting to go to Montreat Youth Conference in June 2024.
- A big thank you was given to George for his guidance and assistance as Moderator for the past several months as we searched for an interim pastor. With Rev. Burt beginning March 1, this was George’s last meeting with us.

Stated meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. with closing prayer by George Johnston

Next meeting is March 21, 2024, 6:30 p.m.