

Session Meeting Summary
January 18, 2024

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

The following were elected for a one-year term:

Clerk of Session – Theresa Harner
Co-Treasurers – Matt Cekander and Tom Henderson
Presbytery Commissioner – Kristen Schoonover

Building Report on Fire Recovery: Phil Toops

Cabling is in (internet drops/prewire finished). Next week internet equipment will be installed by Aaron Toops. Fiberoptic is up & working. The Internet is through Wabash & telephones are through Consolidated. Had to go back to Consolidated because we needed a hard wire connection to operate the fire system. Fred Wear & Ron Walls covered the installation for Phil. Aaron Toops was contacted to answer specific installation questions. Flooring in music area. Phil contacted Jay & will try to work on Monday. Found the original coat rack for foyer. We have a new one as a replacement & it is on the way. Carpet tear has been repaired. Other projects that are not fire related have been taken care of. (Nursery outside door needs to be replaced/parking lot light that was loose is repaired/chimney light repaired/hose outlets insulated). Register covers installed in the sanctuary. Funeral doors have been adjusted & a new threshold is in place. A canopy kit over the kitchen opening has been ordered. Bulletin & white boards are up. Phil has an extra bulletin board if needed. Vinyl mats for entrances have been ordered. We CANNOT use rubber mats on this flooring. Sanctuary lighting will ship the last week of January. Office furniture is due for delivery the first week of February. Doors that were hung in the sanctuary & narthex will have to come back down & taken to Builders Supply to install the glass. Barlow will be installing the wire for the fire system from the boiler room for Consolidated. Furniture ordered for the senior high room from Brooms. All furniture ordered except for tables & chairs. Phil has a proposal for those. Flooring still needs to be completed. Phil is working on financial numbers with Debbie. The security proposal is for a three-camera system. The Office computer has arrived, but it is still in the box. Holding off on blinds proposal with Wright's until the bill issue resolved between them & Servpro. Fred & Joann Wear are working on a supply list for cleaning the church. (Vacuums/dust mops, etc). We should be able to purchase the pew cushions after reviewing the figures. Karen Schmitz & Joann Wear working with Jamie Stang on the foyer walls. Sound system proposals: Working on with Rachelle. Will need to do a comparison of what qualifies & needs an upgrade. The new system will have three cameras in the sanctuary for streaming instead of one.

Three areas for additional money coming back.

1) Pastor Katie's claim: have been paid half on this claim already as set up as a separate claim. Has a potential for \$15-19,000 coming back.

2) Sound System: considered part of the building under our policy. We will need to decide on like-kind & quality.

3) Separate floater policy for computer property. Could cover streaming/computers etc.

Clerk's Report:

- **ACTION:** Approved Minutes of the December 21, 2023, Stated Session Meeting.

- **ACTION:** Approved final membership count for 2023 as 117 (133 for 2022)

Membership: The current membership roll was reviewed, and questions were answered.

Treasurer and Finance Committee Report:

Financial Review – Income difference of \$11,000 down from 2023 to 2024 is the result of two annual donations made in the month of January last year and memorials received in 2023. Everything else is mostly inline.

ACTION: Accepted the financial statements.

Members will be encouraged at worship to contribute towards the per capita which is \$40 per member this year.

Bank Signatures were reviewed. Matt Cekander needs to sign at the bank. Other signatures completed are Tom Henderson (Treasurer), Debbie Nolan (Office Administrator) and Theresa Harner (Session Clerk).

Kristen and Laurel Light are now reviewing checks on a regular basis for two signatures.

Tom met with attorney Chris Koester regarding Katie Orth being unable to secure a loan to purchase the house and the \$50,000 reimbursement owed to the church for credit card use due to a job change. There needs to be possibly three new agreements.

1. Rental with opportunity to refinance.
2. Amount she wants to pay back for credit card use in case the housing payment doesn't work.
3. Lien on the mortgage for same amount (less important).

Chris will prepare the agreements.

The credit card is paid. Charges will be printed monthly.

Debbie will print a sheet for each committee with their budget account activity.

Pastor Search – Rev. Jerol (Burt) McGlawn visited Effingham and met with available Session members on January 11. An offer for interim was emailed to Burt McGlawn following his visit, to which his response was that he is pleased for the offer but needs at least a couple of weeks to give a definite answer. At this time, he is giving a partial 'yes'.

Committee Reports

Deacons - Training meeting date tbd.

Presbyterian Woman – Nancy Joslyn

PW will be volunteering at Silk Purse during the month of March doing various jobs. Male volunteers are included. This will be in place of our church rummage sale. We need 100 volunteer hours, and we get paid \$3,000. We also need to drop off our rummage and say, "it's from Presbyterian Church". Please call Jo Ann at 217-343-9095 so she can add your name to the calendar. This calendar needs to be turned in to Silk Purse the first week of February so they can plan on the number of people working which days. We can work am or pm Monday-Friday and stay the amount of time you want to. We have done this for the last couple of years.

ACTION: Session Approved - To allow PW Pledge to be collected in February with a date to be determined.

Administration & Worship – Chair Sharon Macklin – Liaison Jason Larsen

Communion was December 24, 2023, and January 7, 2024. Next communion is Ash Wednesday February 14.

Summary of Meeting Notes:

5 of 7 committee members were present. Sharon opened the meeting with prayer. Reviewed old business: In-home communion - Served communion to Diana Chalstrom, Donna Kutcher, Mary Lou Sams, Clint and Karen Smith. Was unable to serve communion to Russ and Shari Marvel (in Florida), Leona Wright (received communion at her brother's church on New Year's Eve) and Carrie Dodson (didn't want visitors this month). Mary Curle was not feeling well but wants us to come when she is better.

New business:

- Made corrections to Communion dates.
- Discussed 2022 annual report and reviewed and approved annual report for 2023.
- Made the decision to use current job descriptions in Manual of Operations.
- Discussed inviting at-large members to join committees of their choice by either filling out form or by contacting our church office.
- It was brought to our attention that there are no guidelines as to music performed during church services. Church service music should be relative to the service and not a random song that has no spiritual meaning or connection to the Scriptures being used on that Sunday.
- Discussed the importance of having Bible Study for Lent preferably led by trained spiritual leader.

ACTION: Session Approved

- 1) Change Communion date of February 21 to February 14-*Ash Wednesday* and May 26 to May 19-*Pentecost Sunday*.

Additional Discussion:

- Theresa will be providing all committees with the new Deacon and Elder assignments for committees once they are completed.
- According to the Book of Order, the minister has the prerogative to allow or select music in worship.
- Faith Formation is working on plans for a Lenten Bible Study.

Faith Formation – Lisa Light

Summary of Meeting Notes:

Youth Education: Elementary education is waiting for church to open before making any plans.

Jr. High and High School youth group have picked out the bracelets and as soon as the orders come in, they will sell them as a fundraiser. Laurel Light and Kristen Schoonover discussed researching what needs to be done to get permits to hold bingo nights and raffles. The Youth group is signed up to spend the night at Camp Carew on January 27-28, 2024. The Glow Party will be postponed until the church is reopened.

Adult Education and Activities: The Gathering Group will host a salsa making party at Laurel Light's house on January 26, 2024.

Chicks on Lit will have a not Christmas party at Lisa Light's house on January 20, 2024, at 6:00.

JOY wants to wait to make any plans until the church reopens.

Dinner Club:

1. February- Country Club at 5:00 on February 2, 2024
2. March- none, due to Easter holiday
3. April- Luigi's in Mattoon pending reservations.
4. May- Pinkie's in Effingham pending reservations.

ACTION: Session Approved

- Set dates for VBS for June 2-6, 2024, at our church in conjunction with the Methodist church.

Mission – Theresa Harner – Matt Cekander Session Liaison

Summary of Meeting Notes

- Outdoor Food Pantry – The design of the cabinet and location were discussed. The locations being considered were on the front porch or freestanding on posts in the yard. Advantage of the front porch would be well lit, protected from the weather and within camera range. A disadvantage is figuring out how to secure the cabinet. Further discussion has been postponed until we can discuss it with Joe Freimuth who we hope can build it. He returns in February.
- Special Offerings – Christmas Joy Offering collected \$1,037. Next Special Offering being considered is One Great Hour of Sharing during Lent. Distribution of funds goes to Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Self-Development of People.
- El Shaddai – The first baby was recently born.
- Name Tags at Worship – It would be more welcoming to newcomers if we had name tags. We would have a table (or podium) with sticky paper name tags available each Sunday.
- A Mission Trip is being planned for Kentucky again around June 2024. (Session approval not needed)

ACTION: Session Approved

- Collect One Great Hour of Sharing during Lent (either on Cantata Sunday or Palm Sunday)
- Offer name tags to those attending worship each Sunday.

Building & Grounds – Ellen Ritz – Nancy Joslyn Session Liaison

Summary of Meeting Notes:

Phil gave an update on the church restoration. We are moving much closer to beginning work on the stored items as they are brought in. Phil has a plan set up for each area & who will work on those items. The building fund was shorted \$10,000+ what was pledged. Possibly due to concerns of needing money for replacing church contents. Will be addressing the hole in the parking lot which is worse since the fire. Flags ordered/flagpole on agenda to get in working order. Burn pile taken care of. Checking into the Sarah Bush Maple Street project due to anticipated increased water through the ditch. Looked at church cleaning policy and will present it to session in February.

No Requests of Action by Session

OLD BUSINESS

- Ordination and Installation of incoming Elders and Deacons was during worship on January 7, 2024. Elders – Kristen Schoonover, Sharon Macklin and youth Kendyll Schoonover and Deacons – Lana Henderson, Nedra Mesnard, Jessica Larsen. To be installed February 4, 2024, Elders Joe Freimuth, Kathy Schmidt and Deacon Marge Lancaster.

- Committee Organization Chart – Elder and Deacon committee assignments were reviewed.
- Committee Chairpersons for 2024
 - Administration & Worship – Chair Sharon Macklin; Session Liaison Jason Larsen
 - Faith Formation – Lisa Light
 - Mission – Chair Theresa Harner; Session Liaison Matt Cekander
 - Building & Grounds – Chair Ellen Ritz; Session Liaison Nancy Joslyn
- Presbytery Annual Year-end Reports
 - Session On-Line Annual Statistical Report (Membership, congregational, racial and financial stats) was reviewed. **ACTION** Session approved.
- We still want to complete an exit interview with Katie. Theresa will check if Presbytery has scheduled their exit interview with her.

NEW BUSINESS

Postponed electing Two Elders for the 2024 Personnel Committee

Stated meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. with closing prayer by George Johnston

Next meeting is February 15, 2024, 6:30 p.m.