

MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2023
REGULAR MEETING OF SESSION

On Monday, August 21, 2023, the 648th regular meeting of Session of Westminster Presbyterian Church was held in Galbreath Chapel. Dr. Forrest was the Moderator and opened the meeting with prayer at 7:00 p.m.

Attending were Dr. Forrest, and Elders Baculik, Berrott, Davis, Eccher, Exley, Galbreath, Heilman, Locke, Ludwig, Marsh, Page, Ralston, Rost, Waller, Widmar, and Williams, constituting a quorum.

REPORT OF THE CLERK

A motion to approve the minutes of the 647th (June 19, 2023) regular meeting of Session was made, seconded, and approved. A motion to approve the membership action reported below also was made, seconded, and approved.

BAPTISMS

August 13

William Stephen Kovalick; parents: Scott and Caroline (Hess) Kovalick

August 20

Gabriel Robert Ramos; parents: Maureen (Morris) and Michael Ramos

Alexandra Jane Roode; parents: Sarah and Luke Roode

DEATHS

Beatrice Nogar, June 30, 2023

Isobel Steel, August 5, 2023

Linda Serene, August 19, 2023

MEMBERSHIP

Inactive by Request

Alyssa DeYoung, living in Chicago

Jonathan and Andrea Killmeyer

SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

During worship services on Sunday, September 3, 2023, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered to communicants.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Dr. Forrest led a discussion concerning attendance at worship services and the phenomenon of "de-churching" that has occurred throughout the country since the initial outbreak of Covid 19. She reported that in-person attendance at Westminster has been steady over the past year, but live-stream participation has declined. Dr. Forrest proposed a special meeting of Session in early October following the 11:00 service to discuss worship service attendance and other activities that members are attending. Those Session members present agreed that a such a meeting on October 1, October 8, or October 15 would be appropriate. Dr. Forrest will advise the members who were not present and will schedule a meeting when a majority of Session members can attend.

Elder Andrew Marsh, chair of the search committee for a Transitional Associate Pastor, reported that the search appears to be coming to a successful conclusion. Westminster has extended an offer to an outstanding candidate, and the search committee is optimistic that the candidate will accept. The search committee anticipates that the candidate will be introduced to Session for its approval at the October meeting.

COMMISSION REPORTS AND ACTIONS

The following Commissions submitted written reports prior to the meeting:

Adult Spiritual Development
Bridge
Children's and Family Ministries/WECEP
Community Engagement
Outreach
Personnel
Stewardship
Worship
Youth Ministry

In addition to the written reports, Elder Heilman thanked Kristy Berrott for her leadership in successful completion of the project to raise money to seal parking lot and repaint the parking spaces.

Elder Widmar, chair of Community Engagement reported on the success of the recent picnic worship service and the ice cream social. She noted that many of the attendees have re-engaged and are returning to worship.

Elder Eccher, reporting for the Finance Commission, stated that contributions are close to budget for the year, and that the balance is about \$240,000 more than projected due to a large one-time contribution. He also reported that the *Your Church, Your Money* program will be presented at Friendship Village and Providence Point to provide detailed financial and operational information to members who are unable to attend worship services or to access that information.

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Forrest noted that Charlie Richardson, the recently-retired Operations Manager, will be honored for his hard work and dedication to Westminster at the 11:00 a.m. service on September 3, 2023.

Dr. Forrest reminded Session that a meeting of the Pittsburgh Presbytery will take place at Crestfield Camp and Conference Center on September 28, 2023.

Dr. Forrest also reported that Pastor Vaugelas Pierre, who founded La Croix New Testament Mission in 1975, will be visiting Pittsburgh for two weeks in September and early October. He will preach at Westminster on October 1, 2023.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Meeting participants shared individual joys and concerns for the Church, its members and their families, and for the community.

ADJOURNMENT WITH PRAYER

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. with prayer led by Dr. Forrest. The next meeting of Session will be held on September 18, 2023 in Galbreath Chapel.

Respectfully submitted,

William C. Ludwig
Clerk of Session

Approved:

