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**SEPTEMBER SESSION MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 6:45PM MODERATOR: TIM MCCONNELL**

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**Present:** Rev. Tim McConnell (Moderator), Kathy Freyschlag (Clerk), Rev. Dave Steane, Rev. Greg Hartnett, Rev. Michael Thornton, Rev. John Goodale, Mary Frieg, Mike Hodges, Randy Case, Pam Moore, Kappy Stewart, Lindy Keffer, Jim Martin, Dorothy Alvarez, Bryan Frame, Bonnie Ortivez, Mark Albers, Shelly Busby, Dave Dillard, Megan Nilsen, Susan Pattee, Mike Albright, Kris Bauman, Ken Laura, Elizabeth Roth, Kirk Cherry, Aaron Zimmerman.

**Excused:** None.

**Guests:** Heather Bauman (Nominating Committee)

1. Call to Order Tim McConnell
  - a. Update to the Agenda – move EPNC Update to when Heather Bauman arrives.
  - b. Aaron Zimmerman to bring an order of business as well since he has to leave early.
  
2. Roll Call and Quorum Kathy Freyschlag
  - a. Clerk confirmed that a quorum was present.
  
3. Devotional Mark Albers
  - a. Mark 10:13-16 – we want to see Jesus more
  
4. Proposal from Aaron Zimmerman
  - a. Save the date – November 18 – how can we help staff make Christmas fun again and what can session do before we ask for volunteers from the congregation.
  - b. Would like 100 % participation from elder board to take things off staff plate – potluck breakfast/lunch, decorating, showing staff love.
  
5. EPNC Update Heather Bauman
  - a. Heather explained what they see the role as the nominating committee to be.
  - b. Hoping to have the committee finalized shortly – for sure by the October Session meeting. There will be 9 people on the EPNC
  - c. Kathy F asked if we could vote before the next meeting or do we need to take this to the next meeting or the congregation meeting? Dave Steane said our bylaws say we can approve the EPNC by the session but the historical governance says they need to have congregation has to approve. We can vote on it and then have the congregation ratify it. The



eventual candidate will have to be presented to and voted upon by the congregation.

- d. The session stated they would be willing to vote for this to be made by email and then we can call a congregational meeting with a 2 week notice after a worship meeting.

## 6. Reports

Kathy Freyschlag

- a. Clerks Reports & Minutes
  - i. Updated minutes. Jim Martin moved to approve the August 2024 minutes; Mike Hodges seconded the motion – Motion carried.
- b. Treasurer's Report – Randy Case gave the Treasurer's Report. We will be going into the budgeting process and will be planning a flat budget for 2025.
  - i. Kris Bauman moved to approve all reports – Clerks, Ministry and treasure's report. Jim Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## 7. Lead Pastor Report

Tim McConnell

- a. Advisory Council met last week, and ministry teams are up and running. Have gotten a lot of feedback about how good they are going. Staff should be empowered to conduct ministry and not be held up waiting for Ministry Team approval.
- b. BCW survey closed, and we have an appointment next month with Giselle and we will have a full report next month to bring to the session.
- c. Last night the worship teams worked together to bring new music together and record it at Glen Eyrie. This is wonderful praise music that we can share on YouTube. Original praise music that we made right here at our church.
- d. Presbytery of the West was here the weekend of September 12. We learned about sabbath and got to enjoy time together with other churches.
- e. Discussion about ministry team reporting. We want elders to have enough information to understand what is going on.
- f. First Pres Forward – it is going well. We are encouraging everyone to take the survey. Team is going through 2 hours of training for listening tomorrow. Grateful for this team and a great way to hear the congregation.

## 8. Transitional Executive Pastor Report

Dave Steane

- a. New hires – James Blount, Chris Owenby, and Ellen Dawson are settling in. They are remarkable hires. The innovation, creativity, and proactiveness is spectacular.
- b. Still have open positions –Kids Min Director, High School Ministry Director, and Nursery Coordinator.
- c. Congregational love offering for Jennifer Holz was \$29,000. She was amazed and says that is a great blessing for them. Her installation is on November 3 – a small group from First Pres staff are going to Carmel to celebrate with her.



- d. Monday Morning Bullpens – put a challenge in front of the staff to encourage each other. We could encourage session to do that to each other and to the staff that would be a win.

## 9. Session Policy & Procedures

Dave Steane

- a. Took up the P&P at Advisory Council and it was decided we should form a task force (small group) that can do a deep dive into the document and then we will bring this to the session in the future. We do have some time so it doesn't have to be something that happens right away.
- b. Motion to approve a Task Force team of Mike Hodges, Bonnie Cherry, Kathy Freyschlag, Susan Pattee, Gary Shugart and Dave Steane. Dave Dillard moved the motion, Jim Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## 10. Discipleship Proposals

### a. Micro-expression Sabbath Community

- i. Fully a church – rooted in the theology of wherever two or more are gather there is God. But has a lot of guardrails. Established church (led by presbytery and session) vs, micro expression (life group plus). We blessed Mark and Heather Bauman to move forward to become CLPs through ECO. This process will be finished in a few months.

- ii. This would be the first Micro expression we have at Frist Pres

### b. Mark Bauman submitted for Ordination – they are thinking a deacon, but without a “class” so won't serve as a deacon as a regular deacon would serve. He would just be ordained in order to serve in this micro expression.

- i. Discussion about ordination of Mark – thinking maybe make an Elder vs. Deacon.

### c. Discipleship moves that session commission Mark and Heather Bauman as Commissioned Lay Pastor (CLP1) over the Sabbath Community Life Group as a micro-expression of church in which communion may be served. As Commissioned Lay Pastors, Mark and Heather would also be available for service to the large church in whatever way the lead pastor and session deems fit. As per ECO polity 2.0502, the commission and the serving of communion would last 12 months and be available for renewal indefinitely after that period. While ECO policy allows baptism in a micro-expression of church, any coming to faith through the Sabbath community will be baptized at a First Pres worship service. As Commissioned Lay Pastors trained in the sacraments, Mark and Heather would be available to perform these baptisms if requested. Mark and Heather would remain under the oversight of the Lead Pastor and session, with a direct report to the Discipleship Pastor. Also per ECO polity, session will recommend to the congregation that Mark be ordained as an elder (or deacon) for the purposes of this commission, and not for the purpose of serving on session (or the diaconate) at this time.\* The commissioning could occur during the worship service in which officers are ordained or at another public worship service determined by the lead pastor and session. This motion was carried.



\*If the recommendation to ordain Mark needs to come through the First Pres Nominating Committee (on which Heather serves as chair), Heather will recuse herself from the discussion and ask another member to bring that particular motion to the congregational meeting.

11. Kathy Freyschlag, asked if we could change the start time of the session meetings to 6:15 pm since we no longer have to wait on the trustee meeting. There were no objections to this so the future meetings will start at 6:15 pm.
12. Close in Prayer 9:11 pm