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THE MESSENGER

Session News for the Pews



In-person Congregational Meeting July 11, 11:30

The agenda includes a proposal to change the by-laws from nine to twelve ruling elders, divided into three classes; to elect elders and deacons; and to hear a report from the Session concerning calling a designated pastor.

For Word-Share-Prayer: 1 Corinthians 12: 4-7, 27

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

WORD: Read the scripture passage and underline the words or phrases that stand out to you.

SHARE: Jot down insights from the text. How does this passage apply to your life?

PRAYER: Write down your prayers and pray individually, with family or friends, and groups.

Session Votes to Pursue Designated Pastor Possibility

Earlier this spring, the Session, knowing the Interim Pastor Team would be ending its relationship with the church effective June 30, began exploring future pastoral leadership options. One is that of a designated pastor.

In the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) there are three kinds of pastoral relationships: permanent, designated and temporary/interim. The designated pastor position is intended for congregations that have experienced internal difficulties, have begun addressing them and seek pastoral leadership to continue an intentional process that will lead to healing and wholeness within the congregation and a new era in the church's history. The position is designed so a congregation and a pastor can work together addressing the issues that led to conflict within the church, embracing best practices that will lead to a healthy and stable environment in the church. The designated pastor position includes a recommended term of five years. Given the nature of the call, the presbytery though its Committee on Ministry recommends candidates to the Pastor Nominating Committee.

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This committee, selected by either the Session or the congregation and elected by the congregation, chooses a minister from this vetted pool to present to the congregation for election as the designated pastor.

After two years the congregation, with the concurrence of the presbytery and the conducting of an open search, may consider calling the designated pastor to become the installed pastor.

At its June meeting the Session met with Committee on Ministry representative the Rev. Neeta Nichols. Rev. Nichols explained the details of the position and its advantages for First Presbyterian. They include a shorter period of time in securing a pastor, an understanding by both the congregation and the designated pastor that specific areas of concern within the life of the congregation will be addressed, and the opportunity for a pastor and the congregation to discern whether there is "a fit" for a long-term pastoral relationship.

After a time of questions and answers with Rev. Nichols and a period of discussion, Session voted to request the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of Detroit for permission to seek a designated pastor. The first step in doing so is for the Session to present a rationale to the Committee on Ministry, a process that has already begun. The next step is for the committee to approve the request, which Session anticipates taking place in July. A verbal presentation of the process will be made at the July 11th congregational meeting.

Celebrating Graduates at First Presbyterian

We wish to celebrate the tremendous accomplishment of our graduates, especially during this difficult year. Well done! Please add these names to your prayers.

Don Opland III: Saline High School

Lat Brown: Eastern Michigan University

Lauren Nyitray: Central Michigan University

Calder Pellerin: Kalamazoo College

Marissa Willwerth: Michigan State University

Kara Nyitray has graduated Eastern

Michigan University with a Master's Degree

Pulpit Supply

The IPT ended its commitment June 30. During July and August, the Worship Committee has arranged for this pulpit supply schedule. Pastoral care will be provided by our deacons during this time.

July 4 Reverend Fran Hayes

July 11 Reverend Fran Hayes

July 18 Ms. Charon Barconey of the Detroit Presbytery

July 25 Reverend Christine Barnes



New Health Practices for Worship

Session, with the PHT, has made the following changes for in-person worship:

- Reservations are no longer required!
- For vaccinated people, masks and social distancing are no longer required.
- For unvaccinated people, it is understood that they will wear masks and practice social distancing.

From Mission and Vision Task Force

The Mission & Vision Committee is making significant progress, and we plan on presenting our initial efforts to Session in July. We are excited to share what we have been working on and are encouraged by the potential future of First Presbyterian.

Session Meeting Notes, June 2021

Session met virtually via MS Teams Tuesday evening, June 15, 2021. After opening the meeting with prayer, the Moderator, the Rev. Budge Gere, led the Session in its now regular devotional time of Word-Share-Prayer. Starting at the July meeting, elders will lead Word-Share-Prayer.

Order of the Day #1: Rev. Neeta Nichols, representative of the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of Detroit, made a presentation to Session regarding Future Pastoral Leadership Options with a focus on the role of a Designated Pastor. The selection of a designated pastor is advantageous for churches that have experienced internal difficulties, have specific issues to be address and will benefit by avoiding a long search for a pastoral presence. A designated pastor is pastor called by the congregation for a period of time of two to five years. The relationship may be converted into a continuing call.

A Pastor Nominating Committee, selected by either the Session or the Congregational Nominating Committee and elected by the congregation, nominates a candidate to be elected by the congregation from a list approved by the presbytery through the Committee on Ministry.

A motion was approved by Session that the First Presbyterian Church of Saline request permission from the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of Detroit to seek a designated pastor.

Order of the Day #2: Session voted to reopen the Sanctuary beginning July 4, 2021. (Note #1: At the time of the action, the anticipated date of lifting reopening guidelines was July 1. With state reopening guidelines moved up to June 22, it has been decided to forward the July 4 date to Sunday June 27.

Note #2: The re-opening action applies to the Sanctuary only. The re-opening of other areas of the church building and of the houses will be determined.)

Session approved postponing the originally scheduled June 20, 2021 congregational meeting to July 11, 2021. The call to the meeting will include proposed action by the congregation to change the by-laws from nine to twelve ruling elders, divided into three classes; to elect elders and deacons; and to hear a report from the Session concerning calling a designated pastor.

Training for Elder nominees was held on June 13, 2021.

Special Session meeting June 29, 2021, for examination of Elder and Deacon nominees by Session.

The Worship Committee announced the pulpit supply for July and August:

July 4 and 11 – Rev. Fran Hayes

July 18 – Charon Barconey, Associate Executive Presbyter

July 25 – Open [Reverend Christine Barnes]

Aug. 1 – Rev. Renee Roederer

Aug. 8 – Ron Case, Elder from Grosse Isle and COM (Committee on Ministry)

Aug. 15 – Rev. Kevin Johnson

Aug. 22 – Doug Campbell, Hope Clinic

Aug. 29 – Rev. Dr. Budge Gere



Treasurer's report: YTD Income \$97K; YTD Expense \$(75K); Net \$22K

Elder John Coffey, chair of the Nominating Committee, announced that the committee is prepared to present of full slate of elder and deacon nominees at the congregational meeting to elect officers of the church. The nominees are:

Elders:

Class of 2022 – Bill Woehrle

Class of 2023 – Bill Armstrong, Keith Brown, Lisa Clark, Bari Livsey

Class of 2024 – Barbara Balog, Laurie Champion, Dianne Newberry, Nancy Ryan

Deacons:

Class of 2023 – Terrie Eroh, Joyce Leslie, Dianne Young

Class of 2024 – Susan Brown, Nick Clark, Doyle Lee

Janyce Durnell Clerk of Session

