

Stated Session Meeting Minutes for June 26, 2023

Session convened at 6:00 p.m. and opened in prayer.

A quorum was noted with the following Session members present: Jeff Abney, Grayson Bryant, Brian Collins, Creighton Holt, Valena Hoy, Brad Hunter, Carl Leimer, Peggy Mackey, Page Weaver, Jim Wood

Examination of Potential New Members:

Logan Lilliston - Reaffirmation of Faith
Ian and Crystal Meneeley - Reaffirmation of Faith
David Richards - Reaffirmation of Faith
Aaron and Devan McClelland - Reaffirmation of Faith

MOTION: To approve all candidates. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Guests:

Lee Ann Warstler, Administration and Finance Director

Hunter Johnston, Preschool Director and Director of the Children and Family Ministries

Devotional: Ivan Rusyn, President of the Ukraine Evangelical Theological Seminary in Kyiv, introduced by Brian Collins.

Clerk's Communications and Reports:

- Attendance Figures for May 28, 2023, 2023 through June 18, 2023.
- Membership Gains and Losses Figures
- Upcoming Session Meetings and Calendar Reminders
- Births and Deaths Information
- Baptisms and Weddings Conducted
- New Members and Transfers/Removals Noted

Minutes for Stated Session Meeting for May 15, 2023: Reviewed by Session and ordered by common consent.

Consent Agenda: The Consent Agenda for June 26, 2022 was approved and ordered by common consent.

New Business:

No new business

Staff Reports:

Preschool and Children and Family Ministries Report: Hunter reported that we have a new Children's Ministry Coordinator (Christina Moses) who is off to a great start. She also noted that Jackson Cooper's last day as Director of Youth was on June 26. Jackson is moving closer to family in NC as he and his wife are expecting their first child. The youth group just returned with Jackson from a successful Fuge Camp in Black Mountain, NC

Director of Online Ministry: Reported consistent numbers and please with the start of summer.

PEVA Commissioner Report: None this month

Team Reports / Committee Minutes, URC/N.E.S.T. Report: None this month

Pastors' Reports:

Valena Hoy

Valena reported that Dorothy Hood's last day as Parish Associate was June 9 and she is working on a transition plan. The music program at all three services is going really well and the choir enjoyed a blessed trip to NY where they performed at Carnegie Hall. The Dream Big books sold out as part of the summer book club and study guide. Valena notified the Session that she will be moving her delayed sabbatical to 2024 and will propose dates at the upcoming Session meeting for approval. Valena noted that she will be on the Search Committee for a new General Presbyter for Eastern Virginia as Elizabeth Hendrick is retiring on November 1, 2023.

Joel Phillips

Joel discussed the great start to the summer in terms of church attendance and engagement. He also highlighted the Family Cooking Night on June 28 and the Men's Breakfast on July 1.

Jim Wood

Jim reported that the URC and Tree of Lives are both doing well and that we have five youth visiting Kenya and the Joy Village in July with the next trip being planned for January 2024. Jim provided an update on the sanctuary renovation, noting that we finally have a contractor that can provide an estimate. There is no timeline established yet, as he needs to discuss the various funding options with the trustees. He also noted that he will be seeking input regarding the youth group program and opportunities to improve engagement. We want to understand the goals and structure of the program going forward before we begin the search for a new Director of Youth.

Adjournment: Meeting was closed in prayer and adjourned at 8:45 pm by common consent.

Mark Fulton, Clerk of Session

Rev. Jim Wood, Senior Pastor