

Session in Review October 2019

Session met October 8 with Erik Hanson as moderator. The meeting began with Erik leading a discussion of the Session Covenant, followed by small group discussions.

Chuck Stees updated Session on the protocols in place to keep financial giving confidential. Also, a search committee has been formed to fill the position of Managing Director of the Foundation. Currently a volunteer director is in place until the permanent director is hired.

Deb DuPont reported that candidates are being solicited for the upcoming class of leadership positions – trustees, elders and deacons aka T.E.D. This is a year-round process of developing candidates with many folks serving in ministry areas capable of serving in leadership positions.

Session approved minutes and ministry reports for Session, Trustees, Deacons, LDT (Leadership Development Team), MESH and Roots. The September 30, 2019 Covenant Partnership Report indicates there are 1137 covenant partners.

Libby Brown presented a report on the Roots ministry. Roots is doing well with volunteers filling leadership in each of the program areas. Suggestions from the congregation are important in developing programming. Two highlights this year have been visits to the Islamic Center and Bonai Shalom synagogue to demonstrate our care for their communities. During the coming year because of the engagement with the Islamic Center, Roots is moving ahead with a program called “Communities of Reconciliation” where 5–10 folks from First Pres will meet with 5–10 folks from the Islamic Center over a 10-month period. For Session consideration, issues of concern for Roots participants include loss of capability to drive, using technology and church parking.

Glenn Bean update Session on the work of the MESH subcommittee. MESH conducted an online survey with 10 statements from the 2016 TAG assessments.

- Overall sentiment is very positive with consistent improvement since 2016.
- Relatively weak areas are goals, direction, and vision.
- Bulletin format was the top free response topic but only mentioned on 6% of surveys.
- Staff and sermons received a lot of positive feedback in free response.
- Many constructive ministry suggestions, demonstrating high engagement.
- The 235 responses are considered a representative sample. MESH will work to improve method in future surveys.

Next steps:

- Share high-level results in a Monday Reflections postscript with link to more detailed charts on the website.
- Conduct next survey in April 2020 to capture impact of name change and capital campaign.

Cathy Marquis and Braden Mark gave Session an update on the financial status of the budget and pledging for Ministry Year 2020. After a strong year last fiscal year, pledging is down this year. Time was spent in prayer over this matter.

Session discussions and decisions:

Session met in executive session to hear a report regarding a possible preschool.

Session approved Mark Liebetrau, Terri Evans and Chris Lietz to be the elder representatives to the ECO National Gathering in February.

Erik updated Session on the work surrounding the Boulder Vision Project which includes many current initiatives: facility plan, church name change, integrated financial plan, creation of a church foundation, and revenue generation plans. The BVP team includes Jane Filkin, Doug Smith, Braden Mark, and Kim Bixel.

Staff Reports:

Cathy – With ECO no longer providing a health care plan, the church has had to find its own provider and has selected a broker. It is challenging operating in the small group market.

Jane – The MOPS leadership team is now offering Moms Morning Out which is providing an opportunity for mothers of young children on alternating days from MOPs, to spend time with other mothers of young children.

Carl – Deacons and Stephan Ministers offering significant caring for those in need. Carl is co-teaching a class this fall with Allan Harvey. The class is going well.

Erik - Outlined upcoming sermon series including the current IN (the Holy Spirit), Advent centered around the themes of the Advent wreath, Common Rule – living life together, Vision series, Lent based on Romans 8, and Missions speakers in July when both Erik and Jane are on sabbatical. Regarding the new church name – the Church naming team has broadened the criteria for including suggested names and will present an expanded list of selected names for consideration by Session in November.

Meeting adjourned with the singing of the Doxology.