

## **Session in Review June-July 2019**

Session met June 14 with Erik Hanson as moderator. Erik read from Revelation 22:1-2. Session discussed this passage in small groups and then spent time in prayer together.

Suzanne De la Paz and Mary Swaney provided an update from the Deacons. As some of the responsibilities of the Deacons has shifted to Local Missions, there are some questions about how the Deacons' funds are designated. In addition, with fewer people using the envelope system to make donations, the Deacons' Fund needs to be highlighted in other ways. Chuck Stees will be working with the finance team to better coordinate and highlight the various ministry-giving requests. Stan Benjamin prayed for the ministry of the Deacons.

Session approved minutes and ministry reports for Session, KidTrek, Leadership Development, MESH, Missions, Personnel and Roots. The May 31, 2019 Covenant Partnership Report indicates there are 1177 covenant partners.

### **Session discussions and decisions:**

Lindsay Waymire provided an update on the Prayer and Stephen Ministries.

The prayer ministry has been a source of spiritual discovery and relational connection. The prayer classes have provided more regular opportunities to learn about, offer, practice and receive prayer. There are several trained teams that provide prayer support for specific needs. Stan Benjamin and Jim Remnant shared their experiences in going through the training and being part of the prayer ministry. The Stephen Ministry has become an important source of healing love at First Pres. The training is open to all who have an interest with the opportunity to continue in service for those who feel called to this ministry. There are currently 47 active Stephen Ministers are serving 67 people in need of care. Finding those who are willing to accept care, especially men, is a challenge. Terri Evans shared her testimony as a part of this ministry. Session prayed for Lindsay and the Prayer and Stephen Ministries.

Capital Campaign update: Our architects, BGW, were here in June and will be back in July for information gathering and design work. The Charrette is early August when the architects will meet with a small team to refine the design work.

Capital Campaign will roll out on February 2 – Super Sunday. The campaign's commitment Sunday is March 15. Team members for various aspects of the campaign are forming. Kim Bixel, Doug Smith and Braden Mark lead the full project, aka the Boulder Vision Project.

TAG retreat continuation: Based on the conversations at the final TAG retreat and consensus on moving forward with the name change and rebranding the following steps were taken. A motion was made and seconded *that following the work of our final TAG retreat, and for the sake of our ongoing vision and mission to our community, we approve the development of a new name and brand for our church as an important tool for our external communication and internal sense of identity.* Session approved the motion. In addition, Session voted to set Rev Carl Hofmann as the Moderator and Staff Liaison for a team tasked with developing our new name. The expectation is that the new name will be communicated with the congregation in early 2020. Finally, Session voted to create a communication plan in coordination with our capital campaign and decision to develop a new name. Session voted that the new name would be in place for worship on Easter 2020.

Call of Daniel Susuenbach: Daniel's credentials have been approved the ECO and therefore, Session approved a motion to call Daniel Susenbach as an Assistant Pastor as proposed by the Personnel Committee. His installation will be planned in the near future (now set for September 1). Our presbytery will be notified of Session's decision.

Finances: Session voted to approved the Ministry Budget of \$3.3M for the 2019-20 ministry year. The stewardship campaign is going well.

Formation of a Foundation: Session approved the development of a foundation. Faith Bridge will a part of this newly established foundation. Session voted to recommend several names to be part of the new board.

Session met on July 9 with Jane Filkin as acting moderator. Purpose of the meeting included one item for discussion-the decision to engage Open Book to work with First Pres to provide brand strategy, story development and creative direction for upcoming efforts related to the church name change, rebranding, and capital campaign. After an extended discussion, session voted to approve the motion to enter into an agreement with Open Book.

Both meetings adjourned with the singing of the Doxology.