

## **Session in Review August 2019**

Session met August 13 with Erik Hanson as moderator. Erik read from Eccl 12: 1 & 6-7 while sharing some experiences from his recent bike trip in the Canadian Rockies.

Session elected 3 delegates to the upcoming Presbytery meeting on Sept 20 and 21, which will be held at First Pres. The delegates elected are: Jennifer Yeomans, Deb DuPont, Stan Benjamin.

Chuck Stees updated Session on the continuing work to help Deacons develop a funding model that better corresponds to current giving patterns. In the past, the envelope system, which was used by the majority of contributors, was a targeted opportunity to contribute to the Deacons fund using a provided envelope on a designated Sunday. As fewer people use the envelopes, changes need to take place.

Trustees continue to complete the development the Faith Bridge Foundation as an integrated auxiliary of First Pres. Selecting a managing director is still in process.

Session approved minutes and ministry reports for Session, MESH, Personnel, Roots and UMin. The July 31, 2019 Covenant Partnership Report indicates there are 1169 covenant partners.

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

Financial audit for the 18-19 Ministry year is completed. Trustees are setting aside the surplus for reserve funds. Currently we have received pledges for 90% of the projected MY 20 budget.

Teams to lead our 2020 capital campaign are being formed and are scheduled to be meet with our capital campaign consultant, Culture of Ready on Sept 17.

The work surrounding rebranding is underway. A team is working with the branding firm, Open Book. Weekly meetings are held in order to have a coordinated brand throughout our upcoming church work.

Carl provided a brief update on the renaming process. Name submissions have been received, and the team is continuing to evaluate the submissions. They will make their first presentation to Session on September 9 at which time Session will have an opportunity to consider a list of 8-12 names. The task force plans to present a final choice or a final 3 options to Session in October.

Geoff Babb and Erik presented an update on the work of developing a facility master plan. The initial plan was presented for consideration. The master plan priorities were developed from the July forums:

- Exterior flow + Interior flow
- Respect iconic nature of the building, but update appearance
- Factor in safety/security issues from the beginning
- Focus on Youth and Children spaces
- Refresh of Chapel + Sanctuary
- Consider strategic issues of the Annex

Comments were gathered from Session and were forwarded to BGW to incorporate or respond. Expectation is for BGW to submit revised and updated plans and renderings in late August.

### Staff Reports:

Jane and Daniel were preparing for the ministry theme of Love Local to be unveiled in mid-August. This theme will be incorporated in service projects and in small group bible studies.

Erik reported that he has applied for a grant for use during his upcoming 2020 sabbatical. A final announcement is due in October. His oldest daughter is off to college at Whitworth. He had a joyful time with family over the summer and particularly enjoyed his bike trip in Canada. Watch for additional lay participation in worship with elders reading the sermon scriptures.

Meeting adjourned with the singing of the Doxology.