

## FPC – Session Meeting Highlights – October 17, 2023

- Peter Kelley led the opening devotion and prayer with Psalm 30.
- Liz Burns gave the Clerk’s Report. There will be a special Session meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 24 to approve the budget for 2024.
- There was no Treasurer’s Report. The annual audit of the church’s finances just began.
- The next meeting of the Presbytery of Long Island will be on January 30, 2024 on Zoom. A commissioner is needed from the Session to attend.
- Penny Kelley was the Deacons’ representative. She thanked the Mission Committee for contributing funds to help with Persons in Need (PIN) requests. The number of requests is larger than ever before. The Deacons need additional funding to help meet these requests. In addition, the Deacons are working on a plan to call at-home members. And the Deacons are looking for one more team to help with Sunday Fellowship, because they are short-handed and their members already host several Sunday teams.
- Paul Geiger reported for Buildings & Grounds. A tree was removed over the gravel road and branches were trimmed by the sanctuary walkway. Dave Collins power-washed the Manse. Bob Burns installed new light switches and outlet cover plates in the Manse, as well as a new stove hood, and smoke and CO2 detectors. Shades were ordered for the windows. The furniture will be delivered on Oct. 26. Kolb Mechanical reset the heat and insulated the AC line in the sanctuary ceiling that had leaked during the summer.
- The Cemetery committee had two dying trees removed, and replaced stained glass in the Cosden Mausoleum. The fundraising letter was resulting in donations coming in. Jay Dempsey is digitizing the cemetery records to make them searchable.
- Faith Formation is getting about 40 students for SALT each week. Kids’ Church draws anywhere from three to eight students per week. Volunteers are always needed.
  - There will be an Advent Bible Study on Wednesdays, Nov. 29 through Dec. 20
  - Vic Petrigliano will lead a Bible Study on the Lord’s Prayer in the Spring
- Stew Ross reported for the Fellowship Committee. In addition to looking for another Sunday Fellowship team, there are plans to have a Family Game Night with dinner in January. And Karen Murray will be the liaison for the church for Winterfest, which will be February 17, 2024.
- Colleen Clark reported that the Mission Committee made a contribution to the Deacons to help support residents of the two new women’s Recovery Houses with bedding, etc.

- Karen Murray reported that the Stepping Stones initiative is moving forward. Many thanks to Kathy and Paul Geiger for painting, organizing and upgrading the Manse. Thanks to Dave Collins for his work to clean out the Manse, get the floors repaired/replaced, and power washing the building. Doug MacArthur and Darryl Ketcham replaced all the windows. And Sarah and Ralph Edwards donated a houseful of beautiful furniture. There will be an Open House to show the Manse to the congregation and the community. The Session authorized the Geigers and John Touhey to serve as the Property Management team, work with the residents, and address any needed repairs.
- In addition, there is interest in starting up the Eagle's Wings program again, to drive people to medical appointments. Several people have volunteered to serve as drivers, but we need someone to coordinate the program, connecting requests with drivers. Please call the church office if you're interested in serving with this ministry.
- The Personnel Committee will need to replace Mary Mraz as Faith Formation Facilitator. The probation period for Daniel Koontz is up, and the Session approved a one-year contract for him as of November 1.
- Ralph Edwards reported for the Stewardship & Finance Committee that the budget will be finalized on October 18. The stewardship campaign, with the theme of "Home" and puzzle pieces being sent to all members, will kick off shortly.
- The Worship Committee is planning to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. Peter mentioned the possibility of a second worship service, not to be held on Sunday mornings.
- An ad hoc committee will consider whether and how to shrink the size of the Session and the Board of Deacons.
- The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

#### **Budget Meeting Highlights – October 24, 2023**

- The Ministry Funding Summary, or operating budget, is facing a shortfall for 2024. The problem is not the church's expenditures, which have remained fairly constant. The issue is a lack of revenue from contributions.
- We typically draw funds from the endowment to help fund the church's ministry at a rate that the committee believes is sustainable. This year, we have to take an additional \$26,881 beyond what the committee views as prudent.
- The committee is working to increase contributions, and to look for other sources of funding, including other uses of the physical plant.

- The Session approved the budget.