

Session Highlights – August 15, 2023

At the Regular Session Meeting on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, there were eleven ruling elders and three staff members present.

The devotion was led by Christy Schmidt.

Session Discussion

Session discussed how to improve the online worship service experience. The Worship Committee along with additional volunteers will observe how other churches are implementing hybrid worship services that effectively integrate in-person and online participants to create a more interactive experience.

Session Business & Committee Reports

Governance: Retreat Planning

The next Session Retreat will take place October 28th, 2023.

Governance: Committee Structure

Committee chairs (or session representative if chair is not a ruling elder) should think what additional skills/talents they could use in their committee so we can discuss at a future session meeting for purposes of recruiting additional committee members.

Governance: Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

The APNC plans to meet August 31. This meeting will be for the members to understand their roles on the committee, and will include Pastor Molly, and Erik Woodworth and Tom Lutte as clerks. The Presbytery's Committee on Ministry has not yet assigned a liaison to work with the APNC.

Stewardship

This year's stewardship campaign theme will be "You Raise Us Up", with an adaptation of a song by Josh Groban. The campaign will run over four Sundays – October 22 to November 12 (Dedication Sunday) – and will feature sermons, choir variations on the theme song, personal testimony, and related "Time with Children" during worship service.

Personnel

Nicole Page started two and a half weeks ago as the new director of the Weekday Nursery School following Noni Lindhal's retirement. The task force currently in charge of working with WNS and overseeing the leadership transition currently has three members and may add more; it is working on a more detailed proposal for a WNS Board that would replace it longer term and will present that at a future session meeting.

Congregational Life – Membership Development and Member Engagement

An Inquirers Session will be held on September 24; there are currently two families scheduled to attend. There is a Homecoming meal upcoming, a Stewardship celebration meal to be held on November 12, and

snacks will be provided for Christmas concert on December 10. Rita Hadden (Congregational Meals team) is looking for volunteers to help with each of these events.

Homecoming Sunday is planned for September 17.

Congregational Life – Faith Engagement

There will be three small groups held in the fall: one in-person, one all-online, and one as a hybrid. Ideal size for each group is 6-8 members, but we can divide into multiple groups if there is more interest. Kelsi Brown Corkran and Pastor Keith are organizing this effort and group leaders will be Kelsi (“Searching for Sunday” by Rachel Held Evans), Bill Hoffman (“Reparations: A Christian Call for Repentance and Repair” by Duke Kwon and Gregory Thompson) and Armin and Merritt Groeschel (“Evolving Faith” podcast by Barbara Brown Taylor). Jim Simpson may organize a small group for parents of young children.

Administration & Finance

Our year-to-date undesignated income is seven percent ahead of last year at this time. Year-to-date expenses are slightly lower than last year’s totals at this time, but we are monitoring some expenses that are trending higher than budget (utilities, medical expenses for facilities staff, and insurance including workers compensation).

On July 27, 2023, the Audit Committee met with our auditor to review the 2022 audit. We had a clean audit with one recommendation to strengthen records regarding donor intent for restricted contributions (documenting restrictions in writing and retaining those records). We are working with the auditor, business manager, and audit committee to tighten our procedures in that area, and I’m confident current updated procedures will meet the auditor’s recommendations. Facilities projects include new carpet installation in the administration wing (completed) and a double door for the parking lot side entrance ordered, with installation expected in October/November 2023.

In an effort to streamline payroll operations, leadership of the school and Valerie Burrows collaborated on ways to make the payroll process more efficient.

Session passed a motion to process payroll biweekly rather than semi-monthly as is currently done.

Session Highlights – June 20, 2023

At the Regular Session Meeting on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, there were ten ruling elders and four staff members present.

The devotion was led byCarolynn Race.

Session Discussion

We discussed plans for a Session Retreat in late October. Elders proposed several different topics to focus on during the retreat and the planning team (Carolynn Race, Christina Hudson, Deanna Troust and Linda Ertz) will narrow down the list. Governance Committee to propose time and place for the retreat (likely October 21st or 28th). Pastor Molly requested that elders let her know what kind of training they might want to receive during the retreat.

Session Business & Committee Reports

Administration & Finance:

The church has received funds from the Federal Government for pandemic related payroll tax credits. Session approved placing these funds in a bank certificate of deposit until A&F and Session decide how to allocate the funds.

Session approved the annual budgets for the Weekday Nursery School (WNS) and the After School Program (ASP). These will need to be amended after the new WNS director is hired.

Personnel

Session approved forming a WNS governance task force, led by Sarah Smith and with Christy Schmidt as member, to help with on-boarding of the new WNS Director and to propose a new governance structure for WNS oversight going forward. This task force will serve as Session's interim oversight arm for WNS. Session resolved to put in place something similar for ASP.

The Personnel Committee considered whether or not prior WNS Director Noni Lindhal should be retained as a consultant to assist the new Director with a transition period. It concluded that the new Director should be clearly in charge of WNS from the beginning and a prior Director's presence could muddle the leadership picture. A clean break is preferred. If the new Director wishes to seek Noni's advice and great expertise in the future, they will have that option, but this should be at their initiative and not something imposed by the church.

Governance

Pastor Molly explained that when Session size shrunk to its current 12 adult elders and one youth elder, this meant fewer ruling elders were available to serve in committees. While the goal was to allow Session to be more 'strategic' rather than focused on detailed decision-making, committees are where the work is ultimately done. So between the downsizing and the pandemic, the result is that we have far fewer well-functioning committees today with direct ruling elder involvement.

So how can we be more strategic while also ensuring that the necessary work is done and has sufficient Session oversight?

Kelsi Corkran offered to work with Pastor Keith on promoting the development of small groups which is such an important building block of our faith community.

From the Clerks

Pastor Molly plans on signing an Op Ed in the Washington Post that was written by a group of religious leaders who are part of the Washington Interfaith Network. The topic is affordable housing and advocates for allowing the District of Columbia government to build rental housing on the current Chevy Chase Community Center site that would be available and affordable to those with lower incomes. Session supported Pastor Molly in her decision to sign the editorial and suggested that a broader discussion of this issue within our congregation would be helpful.

Session Highlights – May 16, 2023

At the Regular Session Meeting on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, there were eight ruling elders and two staff members present.

For the devotion, we heard the statements of faith from five confirmands (see details below).

From the Statistical Report

CCPC member Elizabeth C. “Betty” Clemmer of Missoula, Montana, passed away on April 23rd, 2023.

From the Clerks

Reception of Confirmands:

The Session approved receiving these five young people, who have completed their period of study, into the membership of the church upon presenting themselves to the congregation during worship service on May 21st:

- Benji Cherukuri
- Lea Pereira
- Simon Smith
- Matthew Stievater
- Charles Aluvale

Membership Reinstatement:

The Session approved reinstating Tracy Hadden Loh to active membership in the church.

Special Congregational Meeting to elect members of the APNC:

The Nominating Committee has selected a slate of five candidates to be members of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC). The Session approved the following call to be read each Sunday during worship service prior to the meeting:

A Special Meeting of the Congregation of the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC, is hereby called for Sunday, June 4, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. The purpose of this meeting is to elect an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.

In addition, the Session authorized that one of the Clerks of Session serve as moderator for this special meeting as provided for in CCPC’s bylaws when the senior pastor is not available (currently on medical leave) and the stated supply associate pastor is not able to serve as moderator (in this case Rev. Keith Thompson has expressed interest in being considered for the called Associated Pastor position and thus recuses himself from moderating this meeting of the congregation).

Election of Session Representative to the Nominating Committee:

Session elected Ruling Elder Ron Wick to serve as Session’s representative to the Nominating Committee and thanked Ruling Elder Tom Lutte for his three years of service on the committee.

Session Business & Committee Reports

Administration & Finance:

CCPC's new business manager is working with auditors to complete the 2022 audit and they are making good progress.

The Weekday Nursery School and After School Program budgets should be available for review at the next Session meeting.

Congregational Life:

The April 30th new members' luncheon was very successful. Some thirty people attended including volunteers and children. The upcoming Confirmands' Lunch will be hosted by the Deacons on May 21st. On June 4th the Congregational Meals Team will host a churchwide "Enjoy Your Summer" cookout after the worship service and special congregational meeting.

Governance:

The Ministry Information Form (MIF) will need to be submitted by the soon-to-be-formed APNC to Presbytery. This form helps potential associate pastor candidates learn more about our church and the position.

Because the Governance Committee and Session have already drafted most of the MIF, the APNC's work should be significantly reduced and shortened relative to that of previous pastor nominating committees. Without as much planning work to do, the APNC's work should be focused on advertising for candidates, selecting which candidates to interview and then submitting their chosen candidate for election by the congregation. This process will likely take between three and six months.

Discussion

This meeting's discussion focused on planning for a Session Retreat. Several subjects were proposed. Session members decided that prior to the next session meeting they would: 1) study the 2018 strategic plan, 2) review the ruling elder training materials, and 3) suggest three topics for a retreat.

Session Highlights – May 14, 2023

At the Called Session Meeting on Sunday, May 14, 2023, there were eight ruling elders and one staff member present.

The Session Business

The following proclaimed their faith and their desire to become members of the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church and the Session passed a motion to receive these five persons into the membership of the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church:

By Profession of Faith:

Elena Pinzon O'Quinn

By Certificate of Transfer:

Philippe Joseph Rouchon

Candace Noelle Rouchon

By Reaffirmation of Faith:
Kevin Haywood O'Quinn
Trudie Ann Toussaint

Session Highlights – April 21, 2023

At the Regular Session Meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2023, there were ten ruling elders and four staff members present.

Pastor Molly led the devotion and incoming ruling elders Kelsie Corkran and Ron Wick introduced themselves.

Statistical Report

Rev. Jane Duffield, former CCPC associate pastor, passed away on March 21st, 2023. A memorial service was held at Waverly Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA on March 25th, 2023.

From the Clerks

Session elected the following CCPC corporate officers:

President:	Carolynn Race
Vice President:	Christy Schmidt
Treasurer:	Ken Beam
Secretary:	Erik Woodworth

Session elected the following CCPC church officers:

Clerk of Session:	Erik Woodworth
Associate Clerk of Session:	Tom Lutte

Committee Reports

Administration and Finance: Pastor Molly thanked Valerie Burrows for assuming the Business Manager position in March 2023. Valerie is making great strides at getting the church's books up to date.

Congregational Life:

- Inquirers Class is scheduled for April 23rd.
- Lynn Johnston thanked those who helped her and Congregational Meals Coordinator Rita Hadden with the March 26th Annual Meeting luncheon, including Mary and Pat Strauss, Clara Fernandez, Melody Soopper, Bill Hadden, Christina Hudson, Bob and Penny Gorman, Priscilla Huff, Christy Schmidt and Deanna Troust. We collected \$600 leaving approximately \$200 after expenses for future meals. Pastor Molly asked for the blessing of the meal.
- Upcoming congregational events include:
 - May 21st confirmands lunch hosted by the Deacons.
 - June 4th "Enjoy Your Summer Lunch" after "Music Sunday" service.
 - A September Homecoming Brunch at the Brooks' home.
 - November 12th Stewardship Brunch.
- We continue to seek volunteers for coffee hour. Please contact Rita Hadden to help.

Personnel:

- All ruling elders at the meeting signed off on the “Safe Church Policy”, acknowledging it and pledging to abide by it. This policy is applicable to all at CCPC whether they sign off on it or not, whereas the “Child Protection Policy” must be signed by employees and volunteers who teach, supervise or otherwise have regular contact with children and youth at our church. Deacons and members of other church groups may sign off on the “Safe Church Policy” as well. Both of these policies are published on the CCPC website.
- Pastor Keith leads Child Protection training. Ruling elders are encouraged to take the one-hour class.
- WNS Director Noni Lindhal previously announced her retirement at the end of the current school year. A task force led by Christy Schmidt is working on recruiting a replacement.
- Brad Hunter has recently joined the Personnel Committee.

Governance: Nancy Gwinn has resigned her position as Ruling Elder. The Nominating Committee will work on nominating a replacement.

Pastors’ Report

Senior Pastor’s Report:

- We have been very busy last few weeks and even months with hiring and staffing changes (Facilities Manager, Communications Coordinator and Business Manager) and are hopefully in a more stable position now.
- We have been incorporating more creativity and fun into worship services.
- Pastor Molly will need to get hip surgery sometime soon and be out four to six weeks.

Acting Associate Pastor’s Report:

- Easter Lily deliveries by Deacons were a great opportunity to hear from folks we haven’t been in touch with for a while.
- Confirmation retreat is next weekend – may have five or six confirmands give statements of faith at May session meeting.
- Montreat youth conference will happen this summer and scheduled mission trips may not.

Please contact Pastor Molly, Pastor Keith or one of the Clerks with any questions or comments.

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CCPC Elders

Class of 2024

Susan Dentzer
Tom Lutte
Christy Schmidt
Deanna Troust

Class of 2025

Linda Ertz
Christina Hudson
Lynn Johnston
Carolynn Race

Class of 2026

Kelsie Corkran
Nancy Gwinn
Ron Wick
Erik Woodworth

Youth Elder 2024
Sawyer Massey