

Session Highlights – March 21, 2023

At the Regular Session Meeting on Tuesday, February 21st, 2023, there were eleven elders and two staff members present.

For a devotion, Session received the Statements of Faith from the following Elders-elect and Deacons-elect:

- Michael Miller – Deacon-elect
- Laura Kolar and John Silson – Deacons-elect
- Karen Bartice – Deacon-elect
- Kelsi Brown Corkran – Elder-elect
- Sawyer Massey - Youth Elder-elect
- Harrison Ertz - Youth Deacon-elect

The session sustained the examinations of the above-named Elders-elect and Deacons-elect, who have completed a period of study and preparation, and endorsed each for ordination/installation to be held on Sunday, April 16, 2023.

From the Clerks:

Lillian James Simpson, daughter of Jim and Brittany Simpson, was baptized on February 26th, 2023 by Rev. Keith Thompson.

Committee Reports:

Administration and Finance: Session approved the final 2023 operating budget. A&F noted that the budget includes \$33,000 categorized as unanticipated income; we expect to make that amount up from increased pledging, tax credits, and our reserves. A&F will be reviewing to determine if there are opportunities for further refinement in future budgets.

Congregational Life: We are searching for additional volunteers to help run the online services.

Inclusion and Racial Justice: IRJ is planning on bringing to Session a plan to publish the Inclusion and Racial Justice Historical Review prepared last year, both online and via a physical sign on our grounds (which could include a QR code linking to the online post).

Governance Committee: Session authorized the Governance Committee to submit the completed MIF to Presbytery once all final edits are made.

Before closing the meeting, Pastor Molly honored Elder Connie Rhind Robey, who is ending her second consecutive term as a Ruling Elder, along with Clara Fernandez who is finishing her term as Youth Elder.

Session Highlights – February 21, 2023

At the Regular Session Meeting on Tuesday, February 21st, 2023, there were ten elders and three staff members present.

The devotion was led by Elder Lynn Johnston on practicing mindfulness in Pastor Molly's icon painting class.

From the Clerks:

- Madeleine Quinn Gilchrist Paetzell, daughter of Lindsey Gilchrist and Douglas Paetzell, was baptized on January 15th, 2023
- Member John H. Olson passed away on January 18th, 2023.
- Session granted approval to the Weekday Nursery School (WNS) and After School Program (ASP) to conduct a special fundraiser. ASP and WNS are enthusiastic about exploring a combined fundraising campaign to create personalized bricks to fill in the area between the sidewalk and fence adjacent to the playground. The area does not grow grass well. The bricks would be set in sand so they could be easily installed and moved. The Fundraiser would be held in two parts – in Spring of 2023 and Early Fall 2023 (during the “Back to School” season).
- Session approved changing the date of the Annual Meeting from March 5th to March 26th along with the following revised call:

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, Washington DC, is hereby called for Sunday, March 26, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. following worship. The purpose of this meeting is to receive reports; elect Elders, Deacons, an Auditor, and the Congregational Nominating Committee; consider changes in the Terms of Call for the Pastors; and consider any other business that may rightly come before it.

- The Session approved and the Clerks filed the Annual Statistical Report. This report is available via the National Capital Presbytery's website.

Committee Reports:

- *Administration and Finance:* The A&F committee has been working on finding a new business manager. In the interim, Ken Beam and Dick Riegel are maintaining church business until a new manager is hired. Multiple candidates have been interviewed; it is hoped there will be a hire by the end of this week
- *Governance:* The Ministry Information Form (MIF) for advertising for a called Associate Pastor is almost finalized. This will be submitted to Presbytery prior to forming an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC).
- *Mission Advisory Council (MAC):* The MAC is looking for new members. Any suggestions are welcome. The MAC is also requesting feedback on the recently concluded Season of Justice.

- *Congregational Life*: Thanks to the IRJ team we are preparing to publish on CCPC's website or other public forum the results of the Inclusion and Racial Justice completed in 2022. A document, called "Working toward Inclusion and Racial Justice: A History", was created in March of 2022 and was summarized in a PowerPoint presentation of the same name, dated March 13, 2022. It included information gathered by the various review team members about the history of our community, the Presbyterian denomination as a whole and our own Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church. Prior to publishing, we would review the material to ensure that we have given appropriate credit to our sources.

Session Highlights – January 17, 2023

At the Regular Session Meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, there were twelve Elders, two staff members and two guests present.

The devotion was led by Christina Hudson.

From the Clerks:

- **Handbell Donation:** An anonymous church member has offered to purchase a two-octave set of Schulmerich handbells for CCPC. These handbells have a beautiful sound that is different in character from the English Whitechapel bells purchased in 1965. The Schulmerich bells, manufactured in the USA, emphasize overtones that make using them with singing more desirable. Session approved this contribution.
- Elder Tom Lutte is elected to attend the meeting of the Presbytery as an Elder-Commissioner for CCPC.

Discussion: The New National Parks Service Sign on Chevy Chase Circle

The National Park Service (NPS), working with the Friends of Chevy Chase Circle volunteer group (FoCCC), have erected an interpretive sign on the sidewalk along the Circle next to CCPC, featuring Senator Francis G. Newlands of Nevada, a white supremacist who, as a land developer, founded the communities of Chevy Chase, Maryland, and Chevy Chase, DC. In 1932, Congress authorized that the fountain which sits in the center of Chevy Chase Circle be named in honor of Sen. Newlands.

The NPS sign was put up before Christmas Eve 2022, and came as a surprise to the CCPC community. The sign is deeply offensive to many as it displays the extreme xenophobia and racism promoted by Sen. Newlands and prevalent in much of American society at the time. It also appears to weigh those ills against Sen. Newlands's legislative accomplishments as if they might offset each other.

Session invited representatives from the FoCCC and NPS to discuss the process that went into placing this sign.

FoCCC has been working to remove Sen. Newlands's name from the fountain for over ten years; however, their (and NPS's) power is limited because the fountain was named by an act of Congress and would require another act to remove it. A bill has been put forward, but it is

unclear when/if it would pass. NPS has researched whether they can remove the name administratively (as was done with Rock Creek Park's Reservation 13 – formerly Melvin Hazen Park). In the interim, it was felt that an interpretive sign was necessary. The sign was created with input from the FoCCC and the DC Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC)'s racial justice task force.

In response to questions from Session: people of color from the community were engaged to develop the interpretive text, including NPS, the ANC, American University, and the DC Historical Society, though Superintendent Washburn indicated they could have consulted with a broader group. The authors of the text were tasked to include certain points in their writing, tying some of the issues to current housing justice issues in Chevy Chase. FoCCC in particular wanted the sign to raise awareness of Sen. Newlands's views, in hopes that increased awareness will lead to increased push to remove his name from the fountain.

Session and Pastor Molly raised the concern that members of our community, including many members of CCPC staff, are upset with the presentation of Senator Newlands on the sign. It is hard for them to walk by the sign and see it every day. Superintendent Washburn appreciated the concern, and will meet with any member of the community to discuss why the sign was created. However, the NPS wants to put these places in context and not change the text of an interpretive sign each time someone is offended.

Session thanked Ms. Robbins and Superintendent Washburn for joining our meeting.

Following further discussion of the Newlands sign, in which Session members recognized that the sign was hurtful to many. The Session also expressed the need to address these historical harms and the urgency of weighing in on the removal of Sen. Newlands's name from the fountain, and passed the following two motions:

- To form a group (with the assistance of IRJ) to reach out to the other churches on Chevy Chase Circle in hopes of creating concerted action to request NPS remove Newlands's name from the fountain.
- To authorize Pastor Molly and the Session to speak on behalf of CCPC in favor of removing Newlands's name from the fountain as per the CCPC Advocacy Policy.

Session Highlights – December 15, 2022

At the Regular Session Meeting on Tuesday, December 15, 2022, there were eleven Elders and three staff members present.

The devotion was led by Clara Fernandez

From the Clerks:

- The Annual Meeting was called as follows:

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, Washington DC, is hereby called for Sunday, March 5, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. in Chadsey Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to receive reports; elect Elders, Deacons, Auditor, an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, and the Congregational Nominating Committee; consider changes in the Terms of Call for the Pastors; and consider any other business that may rightly come before it.

- The Session approved the following membership actions:
 - Add to the Affiliate rolls:
 - Ann Sowder and Michael Huerta
 - Remove the following from the Affiliate rolls:
 - Conrad and Catherine De Peuter
 - Remove the following from active membership rolls at their own request:
 - James and Elizabeth Williams
 - Kenneth Cantwell and Betty-Kay Kindred
 - Sarah Simmons
 - Victoria Rose
- Elder Connie Rhind Robey reported that the recent problem with the online “Zoom” service breakout room sessions being terminated prematurely is being addressed by staff and volunteers.

The Session’s Business:

- Administration and Finance Committee Update (Elder Carolynn Race):
 - The Session approved the 2023 housing allowances for the pastors.
 - The Session approved an interim 2023 budget.
 - As an update on the Weekday Nursery School’s plans to raise funds for playground modifications, the WNS decided to only make improvements to the large playground and not the small playground on Connecticut Ave.
- Stewardship Committee (Susan Brooks):
 - We have about \$900,000 pledged for 2023, \$300,000 short of our goal.
 - We are about \$22,000 short of collections on 2022 pledges.
- Mission Advisory Council (Elder Christy Schmidt):
 - The Mission Advisory Council (MAC) will allocate any remaining mission budget funds before year-end.
- Governance Committee (Elder Erik Woodworth and Rev. Molly Blythe Teichert):
 - The Session approved a motion to request that the church’s Nominating Committee identify five to seven nominees to serve on an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

(APNC). These nominees would be up for election at the next Annual Meeting on March 5, 2023. The APNC will be responsible for working with the Presbytery to solicit and review candidates for the called Associate Pastor position, and after having conducted a diligent search, to recommend the best candidate to submit to a congregational vote.

- Before the APNC begins its work, Session will have finalized, and the Presbytery will have approved, the Associate Pastor Position Description and the Ministry Information Form.
- The Session reiterates that our Acting Associate Pastor, Rev. Keith Thompson, is eligible to apply for the called Associate Pastor position. Unlike a called Associate Pastor position which is voted on by the Congregation as a whole, the Acting Associate Pastor contract is approved by Session resolution without congregational vote and is intended to be a temporary status.

Session Highlights – December 11th, 2022

At the Called Session Meeting on Sunday, December 11, 2022, there were five Elders and two staff members present.

The Session's Business:

The following were received as new members of the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church:

By Letter of Transfer from Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, Washington DC:

Jim Simpson

By Reaffirmation of Faith:

Abby and Glenn Davis

Lindsey Gilchrist and Doug Paetzell

Margaux Hall

Brittany Simpson

Session Highlights – November 13, 2022

At the Regular Session Meeting on Tuesday, November 13, 2022, there were ten Elders and three staff members present.

The devotion was led by Elder Linda Ertz.

From the Clerks:

- We noted the decline in year-over-year online service attendance, which exceeds the increase in in-person attendance. The Clerks will give this a closer look.

- Our church's minutes and records successfully passed the Presbytery's annual review on November 12th.
- The Annual Necrology Report was filed with the Presbytery on October 26th, 2022, and reported the passing of the following Elders between November 1st, 2021 and October 31st, 2022:

Alice Landt Weicher 07/16/2022 (ordained 04/23/1989)
Norman Lewis Stant 06/11/2022 (ordained 01/05/1975)
Hugh Edward Eagleton 11/11/2021 (ordained 01/30/1972)

- The Session passed a motion to form a CCPC Archives Task Force which will review materials stored in the church's archives room and make a proposal for what to do with them. We have the option of transferring some of those materials to the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia.
- A request for more online adult bible study classes was referred to Pastor Keith.

The Session's Business:

- Administration and Finance Committee Update (Elder Carolynn Race):
 - The church has filed an application for the Employee Retention Tax Credit and anticipates receiving a refund by the second half of 2023.
 - Session empowered A&F Committee to review and approve any final plans by WNS to use its funds to refurbish and beautify the small playground area and add turf to the large playground.
- Stewardship Committee Update (Elder Susan Dentzer):
 - Approximately \$800,000 has been pledged so far for 2023, two-thirds of our goal.
 - The dinners for "One Great Evening of Sharing" received positive feedback.
 - The Committee gave thanks to Director of Music Julie Vidrick Evans as the music during the Stewardship Season was extremely popular.
- Deacons (Acting Associate Pastor Keith Thompson)
 - Twenty-three members RSVP's for in-person recognition luncheon for 50-year members.
 - Working with the Flower Committee to plan for Christmas Even delivery of poinsettias.
- Governance Committee (Senior Pastor Molly Blythe Teichert)
 - A position description for a called Associate Pastor has been drafted by the Personnel Committee.
 - Ron Wick and Linda Ertz have agreed to assist the Governance Committee in drafting the Ministry Information Form (MIF) to submit to the National Capital Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM) for their review. Once approved, the MIF will be used by the to-be-formed Associate Pastor Nominating Committee in its search for the next called associate pastor. Note that our current Acting Associate Pastor, Rev. Keith Thompson, may apply for the called Associate Pastor position.
- The Session decided to meet virtually for the upcoming regular meetings through February.

Session Highlights – October 18th, 2022

At the Regular Session Meeting on Tuesday, October 18, 2022, there were eleven Elders and two Staff Members present.

From the Clerks:

- The Inquirer’s Class of October 16 welcomed six potential members. The Session has scheduled a special Called meeting for December 11, 2022, at 9 a.m. to accept these potential new members into our congregation.

The Session’s Business:

- The Personnel Committee:
 - Session approved a motion to extend Rev. Keith Thompson’s Stated Supply contract for one year, to November 2023, with increases to his salary and housing compensation included.
 - The Committee is completing the Position Description for the Associate Pastor position, an extremely important step which will allow Session to begin the process of drafting a “Ministry Information Form” that the eventual Associate Pastor Nominating Committee will use in hiring an installed Associate Pastor. The Session gave thanks to the Committee for their hard work on this process.
- The Administration and Finance Committee:
 - Undesignated giving (pledge fulfillment) continues to be down compared to September of 2021.
 - Installation of new windows in the Education Wing is continuing, and is expected to be completed by October 23.
 - The Weekday Nursery School has brought a proposal to upgrade the “small playground” to the west of the parking lot. Session has requested WNS provide more information at the next scheduled Session meeting.
- The Stewardship Committee:
 - The 2023 Stewardship Campaign, “We All Need God’s Love”, will get underway on Sunday, October 23. Campaign Co-Chair Susan Brooks gave a “soft launch” during the Time with Children on Sunday, October 16. The “One Great Evening of Caring” dinner program is still accepting sign-ups for members of the congregation to attend or host a dinner!
- Inclusion and Racial Justice:
 - The IRJ is working on brainstorming new strategies to reach out and invite new people to attend CCPC, and hopefully join our congregation. The newly-formed Membership Development Committee will be working to prioritize and put these strategies into action.
- Mission Advisory Council:
 - CCPC is offering its space, custodial services and \$500 of sponsorship funds to support a concert to benefit Habitat for Humanity of Metro Maryland on November 20th organized by Rev. Timothy Warner who was a guest preacher at CCPC in March 2022.

Session Highlights – September 20th, 2022

At the Regular Session Meeting on Tuesday, September 20th, 2022, there were ten Elders and three Staff Members present.

Statistical Report Highlights:

- Tyler Patrick Seduski, son of Tricia and Daniel Seduski, was baptized by Rev. Molly Blythe Teichert on August 28th, 2022.

From the Clerks:

- The following was included in the Omnibus Motion to reiterate a longtime practice:
“The Senior Pastor has been delegated the authority by Session to approve the baptism of the child of a member of Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, in lieu of a vote being held by Session to approve that baptism.”
- The Session approved letters of transfers for Reid Crawford to Northminster Presbyterian Church in Ames, IA and for Roy and Marjorie Cashion to First Presbyterian Church of Naples, FL.

The Session’s Business:

- Update from Administration & Finance Committee:
 - Undesignated Giving (mostly pledge fulfillment) is down about \$9,000 vs. the year-ago period through August 2022 with 63% of the 2022 budgeted amount collected so far.
 - Expenses are running higher than expected year-to-date, primarily driven by unforeseen maintenance and repair costs.
 - Stock and bond market declines have negatively impacted the church’s endowment fund balances invested for the long term. This may continue for some time before financial markets stabilize.
- Elder Susan Dentzer, who is co-chairing the 2023 Stewardship Campaign with Susan Brooks gave the following update:
 - Goal is to obtain \$1.2 million in pledges.
 - Campaign will run from October 23rd through November 13th.
 - The theme is “We all need God’s love”.
 - We will conclude with one night when every member will be invited to another member’s home to share a meal; Mary Strauss is helping to recruit hosts and organize this fellowship opportunity.
- Rev. Keith Thompson and Elder Linda Ertz provided the following update on Faith Formation programs:
 - Sunday School officially began September 18th and has received strong participation. Pastor Keith has introduced a new curriculum called “Godly Play” where the class leader tells biblical stories using characters and objects.
 - Confirmation classes have started, led by Pastor Keith.

- Youth Group has started its monthly gatherings on Sunday evenings. This is for middle- and high-schoolers. The next event will be on October 30th and have a Halloween theme.
- Elder Christy Schmidt provided an update from the Personnel Committee which has been working on a position description for the Associate Pastor for use by and eventual Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. In the meantime, given that Acting Associate Pastor Rev. Keith Thompson's Stated Supply contract expires in mid-November, the Personnel Committee will propose an extension to this contract at an upcoming Session meeting.
- Rev. Molly Blythe Teichert provided a Sr. Pastor / Head of Staff update to highlight some of the initiatives the worship team is taking in response to what we learned from the CAT Survey which emphasized the need to:
 - Engage people with a message that enriches their lives in the world.
 - Provide worship services that are exceptional in both quality and spiritual content.
 - Create a more interactive experience that engages worshipers in a personal and meaningful way across generations.

Some resulting initiatives include:

- Inviting people to share their joys and concerns aloud in worship, finding ways to involve more people in worship and returning to the practice of the congregation coming forward to receive the communion elements. The October 2nd World Communion Sunday service will be an example of this when we will dedicate a special communion tray mosaic of a world repaired with gold filling the cracks, crafted in part by CCPC Sunday School children.
- Shifted focus of sermons and worship series to be more closely tied to the primary confessions and fundamental claims of our faith (example, the "Fruits of the Spirit" sermon series).
- Implemented the use of bells to begin the service and using the baptismal font as spiritual grounding focus during the Declaration of Pardon.
- The worship team is using a new planning structure that emphasizes how people may share the Holy Spirit in different ways, via music, liturgy, faith sharing and voicing joys and concerns; a goal is to foster building relationships, a sense of belonging and building community.
- Director of Music Julie Evans is expanding ways in which music is woven through the worship service with a greater variety of music and by continuing to encourage members of the congregation to share their musical gifts in worship.
- Elder Erik Woodworth provided an update on the Session's work, via the Governance Committee, to rebuild the committee structure that was intentionally shrunk by Session a few years ago and also suffered from many church activities being curtailed during the pandemic. The Governance Committee, comprised of the Session Moderator and the Clerks, is responsible for planning the Session's business including setting meeting docket, gathering meeting materials, elder training and organizing any session retreats.

Both the IRJ focus groups and the congregation-wide CAT survey highlighted the following needs which are shaping this committee structure work:

- Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.

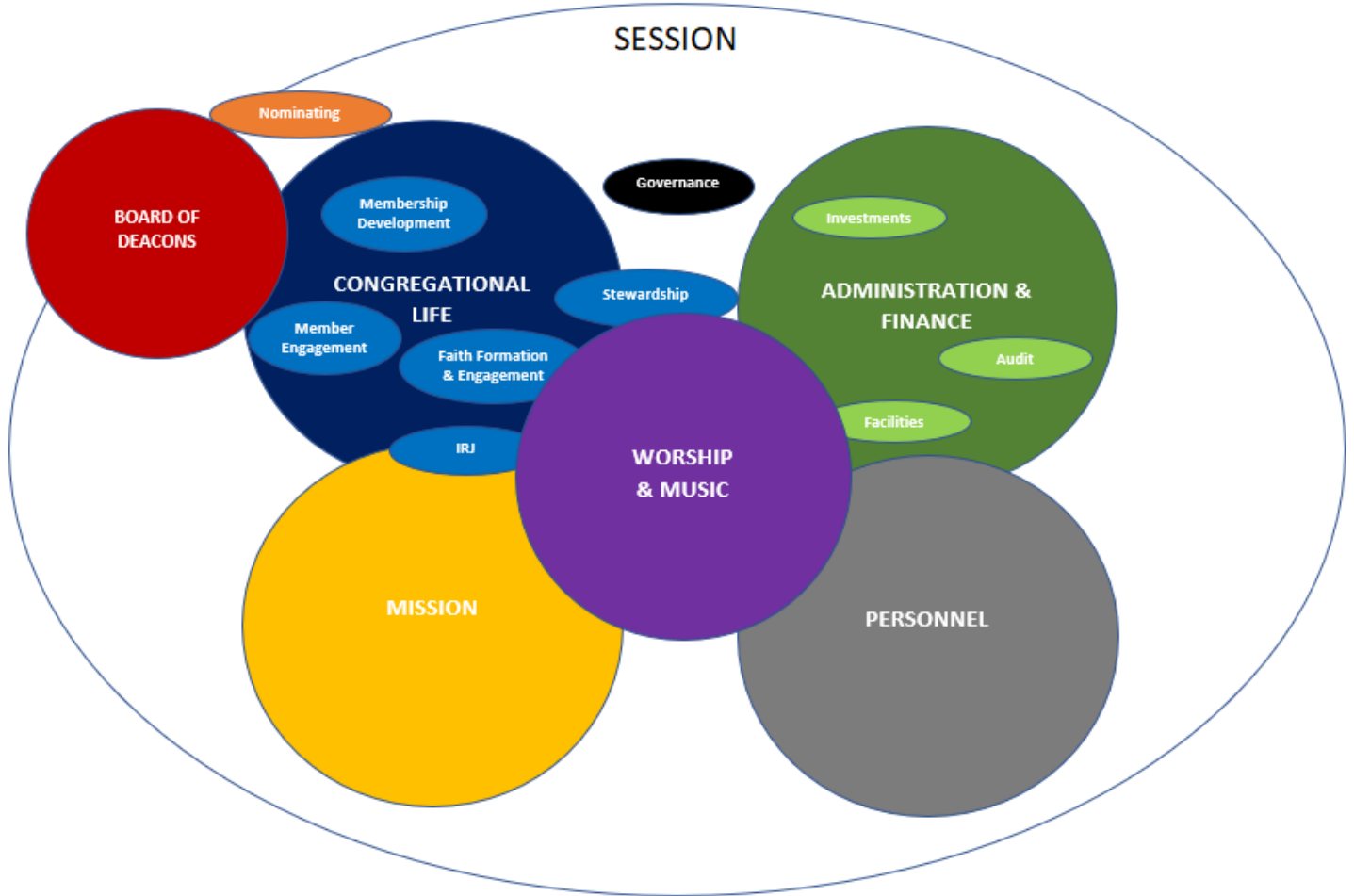
- Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.
- Create new opportunities for people to form meaningful relationship (for example via small groups, nurtured friendships, shared meals, etc).
- The desire to involve members of the congregation to a greater degree in church decision-making and direction.
- The critical importance of accomplishing the above goals with far less reliance on clergy and much more dependence on member volunteers who take initiative and responsibility for building and maintaining the vitality of their personal spirituality and our faith community's vitality.

Some resulting committee-structure proposals are the following:

- Ensure that a small number of primary committees of session, along with key subcommittees, have strong linkages back to session via at least one Ruling Elder member who may or may not be the committee/subcommittee's chair. All other committees, subcommittees, ministry teams, working groups, task forces, etc., should connect back in some way or another to those primary committees of session to help ensure that volunteer efforts are functioning well and are coordinating/communicating their efforts effectively with session, staff and other church groups so as to make efficient use of resources, remain strategically aligned and ensure sustainability of mission.
- The primary committees of session:
 - Worship & Music
 - Congregational Life
 - Mission
 - Administration & Finance
 - Personnel
 - Nominating
 - Governance
- Of these primary committees, the 'new' committee is "Congregational Life".

It will help coordinate several efforts in the realm of membership development (including outreach/marketing, welcoming, inquirers' classes, new member mentors, etc.), member engagement (including volunteer recruiting and management, communications, planning gatherings, etc.), IRJ, stewardship and faith formation & engagement (including Sunday school, youth group, confirmation and worship engagement roles), with a focus on ensuring that all those who wish to actively participate in our faith community are connected to and included in one or more facets of our church life and find meaningful fellowship and learning opportunities as they grow in personal and communal spiritual commitment.

The Congregational Life committee will also help provide better linkage between the Board of Deacons and the Session.



Session Highlights – August 16th, 2022

At the Regular Session Meeting on Tuesday, August 16th, 2022, there were ten Elders and three Staff Members present.

Statistical Report Highlights:

- Eleanor Claire Woodworth, daughter of Elizabeth and Erik Woodworth, was baptized on June 5th, 2022.
- The memorial service for Clerk Emeritus Norm Lewis Stant, who passed away on June 11th, 2022, will be officiated by Rev. Molly Blythe Teichert in the sanctuary on October 1st, 2022.
- The memorial service for longtime member Alice Landt Weicher, who passed away on July 16th, 2022, was officiated by Rev. Molly Blythe Teichert in the sanctuary on August 10th, 2022.

From the Clerks:

- While the Book of Order requires Session to approve baptisms, CCPC has previously delegated to the Senior Pastor the authority to approve the baptism of young children of active members. Rev. Molly Blythe Teichert plans to baptize Tyler Patrick Seduski, two-year-old son of Tricia and

Daniel Seduski, on August 28th, 2022.

- The Montreat Conference Center is requesting financial contributions to help fund capital improvements to the facility, including building a new lodge and meeting hall. This matter was referred to the Mission Advisory Council for review.

The Session's Business:

- Session approved hiring an outside accountant to complete an application for the Employee Retention Credit, a COVID-19 related federal benefit.
- Elder Susan Dentzer offered to serve as co-chair of the 2023 Stewardship campaign, along with Susan Brooks.
- Elder Deanna Troust and the Inclusion and Racial Justice Task Force have met with the Online Communications Coordinator about marketing plans to attract new people and boost congregational vibrancy.
- The Session concurred with Rev. Molly Blythe Teichert and the rest of staff that it is time to fully reopen the church building to pre-pandemic standards as of August 29th, 2022. All groups that normally meet in the building are welcome back as of then.
- In discussing the ongoing reorganization and rebuilding of the CCPC committee structure, Session agreed that elders and other members should participate more in the worship services and their planning, particularly as the worship team implements some of the recommendations from the CAT Scan survey, seeking a more interactive and creative worship experience.
- A small group of Session members had further discussions with Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe from Presbytery about how to interpret the CAT Scan survey results and how to act on it. Session decided that it had sufficient understanding of the results and asked the Personnel Committee to use those results to 1) review the church's overall staffing structure and needs, and 2) draft a position description for an installed Associate Pastor for use by the eventual Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.
- Elder Lynn Johnston agreed to work with Pastor Keith to organize the Homecoming Fair scheduled for September 11th. We will feature information booths and signup sheets for many of the activities and volunteer positions available at the church.

Session Highlights – June 21st, 2022

At the Regular Session Meeting on Tuesday, June 21st, 2022, there were eleven Elders and three Staff Members present.

Statistical Report Highlights:

- Grant Morimoto Wiltsey and Phoebe Rose Wiltsey, children of Katie and Jeffery Wiltsey and grandchildren of Greg and Ari Miller were baptized on May 29th, 2022.

The Session Business:

- Elder Carolynn Race, as Chair of A&F Committee, presented the budgets for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year for the Weekday Nursery School (WNS) and the After School Program (ASP) and the Session approved them. Their expected revenues are \$1,299,513 and \$351,968 respectively.

The school programs had a successful year last year and expect to increase their financial contribution to the church in the coming year. A&F and the School staff also discussed how the schools and CCPC could work together strategically in programming and contributions, such as how WNS could strengthen connections with CCPC, and vice versa.

- Elder Christy Schmidt led a discussion about the CAT Survey ‘vital signs report’ as presented to Session on May 9th by Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe, the National Capital Presbytery’s Transitional Director of Congregational Development and Mission.

After discussion, it was agreed that a group (to include Pastor Molly, Christy Schmidt, Erik Woodworth, Tom Lutte, and others who wish to participate) would meet again with Rev. McCabe to further discuss the CAT results, to better understand the results and their implication. A summary of the results is as follows:

Our church culture and priorities are much the same as they were when we last conducted the CAT survey.

The results have strong implications for our staffing structure, what we need in an associate pastor, and what we need in lay leadership. Addressing issues from CAT will involve cultural change in our church that the Session will need to better understand and work on.

- *For example: Session may consider having the associate pastor responsible for spiritual development of all ages and acknowledge that spiritual development and Christian education are linked and intergenerational.*

- *We need to ask what we want from our pastors and why, while also thinking about what we don't need from our pastors.*

- *We are a clergy centered church and likely always have been.*

We need to focus on the three items the congregation cares most about:

- *Preaching that is engaging in our lives*
- *Worship services that are exceptional in both quality and spiritual content*
- *Pastors who bring out the best in everyone in support of our mission*

Overall, this means that the road to increased congregational satisfaction runs through worship service in a broad sense. We should find more creative ways to bring out more emotional vulnerability and spiritual engagement.

In addressing the above, we should do more to engage the congregation, better understanding what members are thinking and expanding our decision-making and input base.

The road to elevated energy runs through increased involvement/transparency/trust, not to mention church officers, lay leaders and members at large assuming greater responsibility for the vitality and direction of our community of faith. This can also decrease dependency/pressure on clergy.

- Pastor Molly, Erik Woodworth, Christina Hudson and Susan Dentzer have been discussing the structure of committees within CCPC – many committees and teams have been dormant in the last two years and need to be reactivated or restructured. After discussion, Session members agreed that a member care/engagement committee should be formed to revitalize the process of inviting and welcoming new members.

In lieu of a full Session meeting in July, a small group of Session members will meet to further discuss the structure of committees at CCPC.

Session Highlights – June 2nd, 2022

At the Called Session Meeting on Thursday, June 2nd, 2022, there were six Elders and two Staff Members present.

The Session Business:

Examination of Confirmation Class of 2022

The following proclaimed their faith by means of a public declaration and expressed their desire to become members of the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church:

- Benji N. Groeschel
- Sawyer Justus Massey
- Victoria Grace Mills
- Dylan John Rawlins
- Grace Elizabeth Rawlins
- Peter Thomas Strauss
- Eleanor Claire Woodworth

The Session passed a motion to receive these seven young people who, following a period of study, publicly professed their faith, and to accept them into the membership of the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church to be publicly recognized on Sunday, June 5, 2022, and to administer Adult Baptism to Eleanor C. Woodworth on that same day.

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

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CCPC Elders

Class of 2023

Nancy Gwinn
Larry Maxwell
Connie Rhind Robey
Erik Woodworth

Class of 2024

Susan Dentzer
Tom Lutte
Christy Schmidt
Deanna Troust

Class of 2025

Linda Ertz
Christina Hudson
Lynn Johnston
Carolynn Race

Youth Elder 2023

Clara Fernandez