

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LAKE TRAVIS
SESSION MEETING
JUNE 27, 2021

Session Members in Attendance: Rev. Dr. John H. Barden, Moderator; Mary Margaret MacMillan, Clerk; Lynn Fisher; Larry Foster; Nancy Vanzandt; Terry McKetta, Elder-elect.

The meeting was called to order with prayer by Rev. Barden at 12:24 pm.

The minutes of the May 23 Session meeting were reviewed and were accepted with one noted correction.

Moderator's Report

Debi Bankhead, Church Administrator, will be moving to North Texas in the not-too-distant future. As she is able to accomplish around 80% of her work for PCLT remotely she will continue to serve as Church Administrator after her move. Meanwhile, adjustments will be made to have someone available at the church to answer the phones, provide assistance to any visitors during the week. Rev. Barden will be in the office more frequently.

Regathering for worship is going well and with noticeable joy. There have been questions about the return of our practice of going forward for Communion. The consensus is that we are not ready for this to resume and that there are logistics to be worked out over the next several months. Fellowship after church will be discussed with the Hospitality Committee on how this can be done safely. Some committee meetings are being held in person, while others prefer to remain online. Other groups will decide on their preferred way to meet.

Two memorial services have been scheduled: Allan Hitchcock on July 17 and Barbara Morrison on July 24. Pat Hitchcock has requested a reception at the church following the service. This will be a test case for serving food at the church post-pandemic.

Committee Reports

Written reports were submitted by Christian Education and Hospitality.

Outreach: The committee is working on how to keep the online presence going, on developing case studies for membership at PCLT and on developing survey questions for possible testimonials.

Property: The committee did not meet, but they are working on solving the drainage issue around the building. A drainage specialist has looked at the problem and will soon send a proposal for the required work.

Worship: Did not meet

Old Business

The financial report was presented by Larry Foster. There is no hard data after reopening the church for worship; however, there is a significant deficit. Larry Foster proposed a gathering of an informal group to develop a strategy for where we are now and where we want to be. Question: how does Session put together a strategic plan to grow over 18 months.

Rev. Barden presented proposed Vision and Purpose Statements for the Session's consideration. These statements arose from deliberations and discussions to discern how to describe PCLT's desire to embrace a new identity, to dare greatly, to lead boldly, to speak out loud what makes us a unique Christian community, different from other Christian communities in the greater Lake Travis area.

ACTION ITEM: The motion was made and seconded that the following Vision and Purpose Statements be adopted:

Vision: A progressive voice for Christian engagement in the Lake Travis community.

Purpose: Presbyterian in character and Reformed in thought;
Reverent in worship and Progressive in action;
Inclusive in community and Compassionate in service.

The motion carried.

New Business

Jack and Malissa Smith have asked to become members of PCLT on July 11 by Transfer of Letter.


ACTION ITEM; A motion was made and seconded that Jack and Malissa Smith be accepted into the membership of PCLT by Transfer of Letter. The motion carried.

The July Session meeting is tentatively set for August 1.

Rev. Barden will send a letter to the congregation soliciting ideas for growing the membership. The informal conversation group proposed by Larry Foster will also discuss this subject, creating dual tracks for possible strategies. Session will also discuss this at future meetings.

Rev. Barden adjourned the meeting with prayer at 1:58 pm.


Mary Margaret MacMillan, Clerk


Rev. Dr. John H. Barden, Moderator