



Session Update April 21, 2021

The Session meeting of April 21, 2021 was moderated and opened in prayer by Rev. Powers. The agenda was reviewed and approved, and Elders heard a faith statement update from David Rhodes with a reflection on Romans 12:2. The attendees broke into small groups to further discuss the verse and to spend time on the spiritual practice of prayer, particularly focusing on the concept of “renewal” invoked by David’s selected bible verse.

The Session heard a report from both pastors. Rev. Powers summarized his transition activities to date and the next wave of introductions over the coming weeks. David shared words of appreciation for the youth service on April 18, 2021, expressing gratitude for the ways that the people and programs of Idlewild have shaped the youth over their lives so far. The plan for Rev. Dorrien-Christians’ maternity leave has been finalized, which the Session approved by vote at this meeting. Rev. Mary Gale has been contracted to serve in Sara’s absence beginning in June (or as soon as needed), and the two ministers will also have a week of onboarding in May, so that Mary will be prepared when the time arrives.

Rev. Dorrien-Christians reported that the Adult Forum speaker schedule is finalized, and the Word on Wednesday class will continue this summer. Sara reported on a plan to introduce “Backyard Bible studies” to correspond with the summer sermon series about the Fruits of the Spirit and expand the discussion to include Enneagram types.

Treasurer Mary Tayloe provided the [financial report](#) to the Session. The final numbers for the recently closed fiscal year were presented. The church has netted more income than expenses for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2020. The Budget and Finance committee in conjunction with the Personnel Committee and Vision Council is discerning how it will apply the overage and plans to bring its ideas to the Session for review in an upcoming meeting.

In old business, Melissa Grimes provided a report to the Session from the Called Presbytery Meeting of March 23, 2021. This meeting was called to consider the plan which would formally separate Pinecrest Camp from the Presbytery of the Mid-South, including a long-term lease of the property, allowing the camp to exist as a self-sustaining, independent organization. Elders closely involved with the process called the agreement a “win-win” for both organizations.

Rev. Powers reported on behalf of the Re-Opening Advisory Team. At their first meeting, the team identified Anna Ritz as the chair. The group will serve as a clearinghouse for questions and requests regarding activities and facility use within the scope of the existing (and evolving) COVID guidelines in place at Idlewild.

Dr. Heather Chauhan reported on behalf of the COVID Advisory Team. She expressed appreciation for the re-opening opportunities that have safely occurred in recent weeks, and reminded all that



safety precautions, including masks and distancing must continue. She recommends the vaccine to all who are eligible.

In new business, the Session heard a report from Chad Braddock on behalf of the Community Support Committee. Grants have been awarded to 27 organizations. The total sum of grant monies, which is determined by the Trustees, was larger than originally budgeted for the year; therefore, the committee asked for a vote from the Session to acknowledge and approve their work.

All stated business being addressed, a motion was heard to adjourn the meeting and the Session closed in prayer.